FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 MAY 1984

Gulf Crisis

The Arab states are "astonished" that the United States has adopted the attitude of a "spectator" with regard to the Iraq-Iran war, Kuwaiti Oil Minister Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah as-Sabah asserted in remarks reported by KUNA. In another KUNA report, Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir stressed that the Gulf waters are not territorial but international and that consequently he does not have the right to oppose "military intervention." The foreign minister said that, while he is not "concerned" about intervention by countries dependent on the Gulf, he cannot grant them bases in Kuwait. He also observed that the GCC countries, "especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia," had agreed to consolidate their air defense systems to deter any further attack. Another Foreign Ministry official cited by the agency stressed that Kuwait will not seek U.S. assistance or protection, as it is determined to prevent the Gulf from being opened up to "international struggle."

Asked about possible U.S. air cover for tankers, Saudi Petroleum Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani replied that "no one will invite the United States to come without thinking of the Soviet Union coming," AFP reported. He warned Iran that Saudi Arabia would defend itself if attacked.

In a separate development, during a meeting with Japanese Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, an Arab League delegation urged Japan to "drastically reduce" imports of Iranian oil in order to cut off Iran's oil revenue and end the war, KYODO reported.

A Foreign Ministry announcement broadcast by Tehran radio criticized the final resolution issued by the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis for ignoring Iraq's "warmongering." The announcement stated that Iran will make every effort to maintain security and stability in the Gulf and that Iran opposes interference by "any foreign force" in the area. It also warned that if Iran is prevented from exporting its oil, no oil will be exported from the region.

Syria-ICO

Syria has decided to suspend its membership in the ICO's Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of Moroccan King Hassan II because it regards the recent Jewish conference in Morocco attended by an Israeli delegation as a flagrant violation of ICO principles and of the aims for which the Jerusalem Committee was founded. The Syrian announcement, which was contained in a Foreign Ministry memorandum to the ICO secretary general broadcast by Damascus radio, added that Syria will boycott the committee's meetings "until the reasons which led to this suspension are removed" and urged other members of the committee to follow suit.

Israel

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told the Knesset that Israel has no intention of attacking Syria and that, if circles in Syria want to heat up the atmosphere, they should realize Israel will not be dragged into any provocation, according to the transcript of Shamir's speech issued by the GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE. He warned that those in Israel who are hinting that there will be "something to talk about" with Jordan if and when they come to power are undermining Israel's interests.

Shamir reaffirmed his willingness to negotiate with any Arab country without preconditions or promises of concessions concerning sovereignty in "Eretz Yisra'el," adding that the Camp David accords are still the "only basis for negotiations."

Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres said in his Knesset speech that the Alignment does not insist on incorporating Jordan in negotiations based on the Camp David accords because the Jordanians did not participate in the deliberations which led to those agreements, Jerusalem radio reported.

Libya

Relations With Tunisia — Libya has decided to release three Tunisian border guards captured on 8 May, AFP reported citing sources in Tunis. The decision followed talks between Foreign Liaison Secretary 'Ali 'Abd as-Salam at-Turayki and Tunisian Foreign Affairs Minister Beji Caid Essebsi that were held in an atmosphere of "complete frankness," according to Tunis radio.

Warning to U.S., UK — Libya's revolutionary committees are "in constant readiness to execute the death sentence and transfer the battle into these countries which feed terrorism," *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* warned the United States and Britain in an editorial reported by JANA.

PLO Affairs

Leaders of Fatah dissidents, As-Sa'iqah, the PFLP-General Command, and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front have formed a "Palestinian National Alliance" and called for the establishment of a "joint body for national salvation" chaired by the PNC speaker and including those PLO Executive Committee members hostile to the "deviationist and capitulatory trend" represented by Yasir 'Arafat, Damascus television reported. The alliance's program condemned 'Arafat's leadership, calling for a collective PLO leadership that would escalate armed struggle against Israel and strengthen the strategic alliance with Syria.

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PLO Bureau Issues Statement on Algiers Meeting

LD201300 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The second Palestinian meeting in Algiers ended its proceedings at 0930 this morning at the Sunawbar Club. The final session was held in the presence of Brothers Mohamed Yazid, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee entrusted with the Council of Friendship and Solidarity with Peoples; Sa'iq Zwatin, member of the Permanent Secretariat for Foreign Relations and representative of the FLN; and 'Ali 'Abd ar-Rahman, representative of the Yemeni Socialist Party.

The proceedings continued in closed session following their opening on 14 May. The meeting was attended by a delegation of the Palestinian Fatah movement led by Abu Jihad, [Khalil al-Wazir], member of the Central Committee and deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian Armed Forces; a delegation of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by the assistant secretary general, Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh; a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine led by the assistant secretary general, 'Ali Mustafa; and a delegation of the Palestinian Communist Party led by the deputy secretary general, Sulayman Najjab.

The PLO Bureau issued the following statement: The second round of the Algiers Palestinian meeting was held in the period between 14 and 20 May 1984 to continue the discussion of the issues which will secure Palestinian national unity and protect the PLO, its role, accomplishments, and national policy. The meeting achieved advanced steps in the way of reaching a comprehensive national accord. The participants decided to hold another round of talks to complete the discussion of political and organizational issues which remained outstanding during the first week of June, 1984 in Aden, capital of the PDRY. The participants expressed their gratitude to and appreciation of the brothers in the Algerian FLN party and to the brother struggler Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Algerian Popular Democratic Republic for hosting this meeting and for his patronage. They also expressed their appreciation of the Yemeni Socialist Party delegation's participation in the proceedings.

AR-RA'Y Reports on Intra-Palestinian Dialogue

JN201106 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 20 May 84 pp 1, 20

[Lamis Anduni's dispatch]

[Text] Amman —The second round of Palestinian dialogue was scheduled to end its meetings in Algiers late last night with an agreement on a middle solution to the subject of Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo — a subject which took up the major part of the participants' efforts. Well-informed sources told *AR-RA'Y* that this middle solution is summed up in an agreement to condemn 'Arafat's visit without indicating that this condemnation is political, as the quadripartite alliance demands, or organizational, as the Fatah movement demands. *AR-RA'Y* sources described the results reached as positive, but not final, because the five factions will meet again after 2 weeks in order to discuss the issues on which no agreement was reached.

In a statement to *AR-RA'Y*, Salih Ra'fat, Political Bureau member of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said that the five factions participating in the Palestinian national conference in Algiers have agreed to 90 percent of the tangible issues and that they will meet again after 2 weeks. He added that the last few days' discussions centered on relations with Egypt, Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, relations with Syria, Palestinian-Lebanese relations, the situation in the occupied territories, and relations with Jordan. He said that the forthcoming talks will focus on reaching a final joint formula aimed at solving organizational and political issues, calling for other sides to participate in the dialogue, and fixing the date of the PNC.

A working committee consisting of Hani al-Hasan (Fatah movement), 'Umar Abu Layl (Democratic Front), 'Abd ar-Rahim Malluh (PFLP), and Sulayman Najjab (Palestinian Communist Party) has been formed to draft unified political and organizational resolutions and stands toward all issues. Palestinian sources say that an agreement was reached in principle on the need to freeze all contacts with Egypt and abide by the PNC's resolutions in this regard. However, Fatah sources stressed that the Fatah delegation did not agree to the issue of condemning Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat] visit politically and called for a middle formula.

On another level, Fatah sources in Algiers told *AR-RA'Y* that the date of the next PNC session is expected to be announced at the end of the meeting if all sides reach a final agreement.

As for the results of the Algerian mediation with Syrian officials, the sources said the results were not important. However, PFLP Political Bureau member 'Abd ar-Rahim Malluh told *AR-RA'Y* that Syria had informed the Algerian delegation that Palestinian accord comes first, that it is awaiting the results of the Palestinian dialogue conference, and that it is committed to Palestinian national unity. Although the conference circles describe the recent talks as complicated and difficult due to the conferees' failure to find a joint and final formula for some important political issues, Palestinian sources in Algiers affirm that all sides have demonstrated a desire to maintain the unity of Palestinian action. Within this context, the Fatah delegation said that Fatah will work for materializing national unity, and that this will reflect on the formation of the PLO offices. Fatah pledged that these offices' representatives will be chosen from all parties, and that responsibility for the offices will not be monopolized by one party. *AR-RA'Y* has learned that the conference will issue a brief final statement about its meetings this morning.

JORDAN TIMES on Talks

JN211554 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 May 84 p 1

[By Lamis Andoni, *JORDAN TIMES* staff reporter]

[Excerpts] Amman — A week of "complicated and difficult" talks among five Palestinian commando groups ended in Algiers Saturday without reaching any conclusive agreement on convening the Palestine National Council (PNC), but with a decision to hold a further meeting in Aden, South Yemen, in the first week of June. A statement issued by the representatives of the five factions said "the meetings covered appreciable stages in the path of achieving a comprehensive national accord," but fell short of fixing a date for the next session of the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile. A first round of talks among the factions last month concluded with a commitment on the part of all factions not to convene the PNC until "a comprehensive agreement is reached so as to avoid rifts in the PNC," which is considered the highest legislative body in the PLO.

According to representatives of the five factions who were contacted by the *JORDAN TIMES* during the second round of talks,indicated that the participants delved into the "core of their differences" and "were anxious not to allow the dialogue reach a deadlock."

Reliable Palestinian sources in Algiers described the debate which took place over the weekend as "tense and heated." The sources attributed the intensity of the talks to the "sensitive nature" of the subjects discussed, which included Mr 'Arafat's visit to Cairo last December, the PLO's relations with Syria and Jordan. Fatah leaders were also hoping to fix a date for a PNC session and invite the Arab Liberation Front (ALF) to join the talks during last week's meeting. The other factions insisted that these issues be debated at a later stage. Relations with Jordan were an important point among differences that were discussed in Algiers. No details were available, but Palestinian sources in Algiers told the *JORDAN TIMES* that the four factions demanded a commitment from Fatah to the PNC resolutions which called for confederal ties between Jordan and an independent Palestinian state. The sources said that the Fatah delegation in Algiers stressed that the outcome of the recent Jordanian-PLO talks did not contradict the PNC resolutions.

Representatives of the four factions, however, told the *JORDAN TIMES* that they wanted to make sure that Mr 'Arafat has not reached "any secret agreement" with Jordan that "might infringe upon the right of the PLO to be the sole representative of the Palestinian people."

Palestinian Dissidents Form Organization

NC211731 Paris AFP in English 1704 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Damascus, May 21 (AFP) — Four Syrian-backed Palestinian groups which last year fought against forces loyal to Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today announced the setting-up of a united front organization called the Palestinian Nationalist Alliance. The dissident groups, which with Syrian and Libyan backing expelled Mr 'Arafat and his supporters from Lebanon last December, said the alliance's aims were to "preserve the PLO and its unity, and confound the deviationist line" of Mr 'Arafat. The four organizations are a dissident group from Mr 'Arafat's Fatah organization, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) headed by Ahmad Jibril, the Syrian-founded As-Sa'iqah group, and the small Palestinian People's Struggle Front headed by Samir Ghanshah. The new alliance does not contain either the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) led by George Habash or the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) headed by Nayif Hawatimah, analysts noted. Although critical of Mr 'Arafat's leadership, those two left-leaning groups have been to the forefront in recent attempts to patch up differences in the PLO.

The two of them are numerically stronger than the newly-created alliance, analysts said. The newly-founded alliance today presented its political programme to journalists here and announced the setting-up of a "Joint Committee for National Salvation." As well as Mr 'Arafat's leadership, the alliance said it would fight "efforts by the Jordanian regime to jeopardize the PLO's representativeness." It also said it planned to "step up the armed struggle against Israel." While stressing that it was in favour of PLO unity in line with the United Nations' Charter and resolutions of the Palestinian National Council — the PLO's equivalent of a parliament — the alliance called for a "reform of PLO institutions." This should include a "collegial leadership" which would be distinct from the present PLO Executive Committee, it said. The Executive Committee is chaired by Mr 'Arafat. The alliance called on representatives of Palestinian groups and independent Palestinian figures to join the Committee of National Salvation. It expressed the wish that Khalid al-Fahum, president of the National Council, might chair the new committee.

It suggested that the new committee should alone be allowed to convene enlarged Palestinian meetings and to stipulate who should take part in them.

Alliance Holds Press Conference

JN211843 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Palestinian National Alliance [at-tahaluf al-watani al-filastini] held a press conference in Damascus this morning. Comrade 'Isam al-Qadi, secretary general of the Popular Liberation War Vanguards Organization-As-Sa'iqah Forces; Samih Abu Kuwayk, alias Abu Qadri, and Colonel Sa'id Musa, member of the Fatah uprising movement; Ahmad Jibril, secretary of the PFLP-GC; and Dr Samir Ghawshah, secretary general of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front [PPSF], attended the conference.

The press conference was held under the slogan: For the sake of protecting the PLO and its national unity on militant bases and preserving its accomplishments. A large number of press correspondents and reporters, as well as representatives of Arab and foreign news agencies, radios, and televisions attended the conference.

At the beginning of the conference, Dr Ghawshah read the program of the joint body for national salvation signed by Fatah, the PFLP-GC, the PPSF, and the As-Sa'iqah Forces, explaining that this program is presented for discussion in the Palestinian arena and is subject to modification and addition in order to strengthen the unity of the national Palestinian position within the framework of the PLO, so that a national unity among all the national groups, forces, personalities, and figures that are hostile to the deviationist and capitulatory trend can be achieved in order to protect the PLO's unity and institutions on a national and progressive base that is hostile to imperialism and Zionism.

The program points out that the PLO has been able to achieve several gains as a result of the Palestinian people's struggle and sacrifices. It became the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, who also managed to make the PLO an embodiment of their will and national unity, asserting that the PLO confronted the Camp David Accords and disclosed their danger on both national and pan-Arab levels. The program also says that the Israeli invasion of Lebanon was met by the heroic resistance of the Syrian forces, the Palestinian revolution forces, and the Lebanese nationalist movement, a fact that prevented the enemy from achieving the objectives of its invasion.

The program condemns 'Arafat's deviationist trend on all the political, military, organization, and financial levels--a trend that represents his position toward U.S. plans and solutions, his claim that there are positive points in Reagan's plan, his contacts with the Camp David regime in Egypt, his meetings with well known Zionist figures, his strike at the bases of unionist action, his continuation of the policy of unilateral action, his departure from the PNC resolutions, and his actions to waste national fund deposits.

The program also calls for adhering to the PLO's unity and preserving its gains through abiding by the national charter and PNC resolutions that bolster the national line which is hostile to imperialism, Zionism, and liquidatory solutions. It also calls for ending the capitulatory, deviationist, and divisionist trend that 'Arafat's leadership represents and for restoring the strength of the broad militant action within the framework of the PLO as stipulated by the national charter. It also calls on all the national groups, forces, and figures and popular organizations, which participate in broad militant actions within the PLO and adopted a national position hostile to the deviationist and capitulatory trend that 'Arafat's leadership represents, to bear their historic responsibility for reactivating their militant relations and unifying their positions in order to end the deviationist and divisionist trend so that the PLO can regain its unity and step up its struggle represented by armed struggle that will realize our national objectives.

The program also makes it clear that the achievement of this central duty of national salvation gives prominence to a host of urgent missions on both the political and organizational levels. It concentrates on the PLO's unity on the basis of the Palestinian National Charter and on the need to preserve the unity of its institutions, offices, and popular organizations, confront all imperialist and Zionist plans, foremost of which are the Camp David Accords, Reagan's plan, and the Jordanian plans under the disguise of confederation, take action to foil the deviationist, capitulatory, and divisionist trend that 'Arafat's leadership represents, confront the Jordanian regime's policy to harm the PLO's representation of the Palestinian people, bolster relations with the national Egyptian forces, and exert every effort to encourage all national forces in the occupied territories in order to reactivate the national Palestinian front on the basis of the PLO's national program.

Stress was also put on the political duties represented by the need to protect the unity of the popular organizations inside and outside the occupied land, rectify the situation in the PLO's institutions, create organizational guarantees in order to protect the PLO and its national line through the formation of a collective leadership loyal to the PLO's resolutions, step up armed struggle against the Zionist enemy, strengthen the strategic alliance with Syria to stage a joint struggle against Israeli aggression and occupation and against the hegemonic U.S.-Zionist plans, particularly the Camp David Accords and Reagan's plan, take joint action with Lebanese nationalist forces and support their struggle to achieve Lebanon's independence, unity, and Arabism, and coordinate with national and progressive Arab forces and regimes in order to strengthen the PLO's unity and ties of friendship and alliance with the forces of progress and liberation in the world, foremost of which are the Soviet Union and socialist countries.

Regarding organizational duties, stress was put on the need to form a joint body for national salvation consisting of representatives of national groups, forces, and figures under the chairmanship of the PNC speaker and with the participation of PLO Executive Committee members who adopt a hostile position toward the deviationist and capitulatory trend, so that the joint body for national salvation can form a temporary framework that will seek to preserve the PLO's unity and protect its accomplishments. The joint body's sessions should be presided over by the PNC speaker and its resolutions should be made on the basis of a consensus. The members of the Executive Committee should continue to manage and run the affairs of their departments. Any member can be entrusted to run the affairs of other departments on a temporary basis.

Concerning organizational duties, the joint body will continue contacts and coordination with federations, popular organizations, and members of the Palestinian central and national councils in order to discuss the best ways to preserve the PLO's unity. The joint body will also regulate ways to contact and coordinate with the national forces and progressive Arab countries, as well as the progressive and liberation forces in the world. It also will have the right to invite whoever it wants to attend its sessions and to hold expanded meetings to draw up bylaws to regulate its work. At the end of the press conference, Comrades Al-Qadi, Jibril, Ghawshak, Abu Kuwayk, and Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa] responded to all questions posed by reporters.

'Arafat on Military Option, Arab Relations

JN191725 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has stressed that the Palestinian revolution will not relinquish the military option, warning that such a relinquishment would mean the collapse of the revolution. He added that he supports a just peace [words indistinct]. Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed that Israeli actions in the occupied Palestinian territories are serious crimes committed by several Israeli sides, including the Army, the police, and Israeli Government employees.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar urged the Arabs to confront the Israeli designs that are aimed at expelling the Palestinian people from their homeland. He also urged them to contribute toward supporting our people's steadfastness in the occupied Palestinian territories. He urged the Arab states not to relinquish their financial obligations to help the Palestinian people stand fast. He said that the Arab funds are dwindling fast.

In statements to *AL-MAJALLAH* magazine, which was issued yesterday, Brother Abu 'Ammar stressed the need for Egypt's return to the Arab fold. He pledged to work for the achievement of this objective so that Egypt can return strong after releasing itself from the chains of the Camp David Accords. Regarding the relations with Jordan, Brother leader Abu 'Ammar affirmed that these relations are based on mutual confidence and sincere brotherhood.

'Arafat To Arrive in Amman Soon for Meeting

JN200737 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 20 May 84 pp 1, 21

[Excerpt] *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* has learned that Yasir 'Arafat will arrive in Amman at the end of this week on a working visit during which he will participate in the meetings of the board of directors of the Palestinian National Fund. The fund's 56th session will be held under Dr Hanna Nasir, chairman of the fund's board of directors, in Amman next Saturday.

'Arafat Meets PRC Vice Premier in Tunis

GF212016 Aden Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1820 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, met the day before yesterday with the vice premier of the PRC State Council and the accompanying delegation which is currently visiting Tunis. They discussed 'Arafat's recent visit to the PRC and recent developments in the Palestinian, Arab, and international situations.

Further on Fatah Delegation Visit to Moscow

Meets With CPSU's Brutents

LD191814 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Moscow, May 19 (KUNA) — A delegation of the mainstream commando movement, Fatah, headed by member Salah Khalaf conferred here Saturday with Deputy Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Politburo of the Soviet ruling Communist Party Karen Brutents. The Soviet official welcomed the delegation's visit noting that it comes at a time when imperialist forces were attempting to impose their schemes on the Mideast region and ignore the Palestinian people's rights. Fatah delegation sources said that Khalaf, better known as Abu Iyad, has explained latest political events on the Palestinian and Arab arenas including plots engineered by imperialist and reactionary forces in the region in a bid to strike at the Arab liberation movement and weaken its vanguards namely the Palestinian revolution. Abu Iyad told KUNA that the talks covered the outcome of current dialogue between a number of Palestinian organizations in Algiers in an attempt to re-cement Palestinian national unity.

Asked on the Palestinian-Syrian relationship, the Fatah official underlined that no change has occurred to the stalemated relations. The Palestinian leader denied reports quoting PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat as saying that the Fatah headquarters will be moved to Cairo,but contended that the Palestinian research center will be. Abu Iyad reiterated that the Palestinian revolution has nothing to do with the Jewish congress in Morocco and that it has several reservations regarding its convention.

The Central Committee member severely condemned the Iranian attacks against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, charging that the air strikes aim at expanding the war zone to include other Arab countries. Abu Iyad appealed to the parties taking part in the Palestinian reconciliation talks in Algeria to live up to their responsibility, and warned that if the Israeli opposition Labor Party won the upcoming Knesset elections, it will resurface the Jordanian option in a bid to instigate Jordanian-Palestinian differences.

New Talks Begin

LD202142 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0836 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Moscow, 20 May (KUNA) — PLO sources in Moscow confirmed to our agency that the visiting Fatah delegation began a new round of talks this morning. Sources at the Palestinian Embassy said the Fatah delegation, which is headed by Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], and includes Khalid al-Hasan; Mahmud Abbas; Abbas Zaki; and the organization's ambassador, Sakhr Habash, began their talks today at the headquarters of the Soviet Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity. Attending the talks were senior officials of this committee, headed by Mr Dzasokhov, first deputy chairman of the committee and chairman of the Palestinian-Soviet Relations Committee.

More Meetings Held

JN211748 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] In Moscow, the Fatah Central Committee delegation led by Brother Abu 'Iyad [Salah Khalaf] is continuing talks with senior USSR officials. The Fatah delegation held meetings yesterday with representatives of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Foreign Ministry, the Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee, and the chairman of the Soviet Committee for Solidarity With Asian and African Countries.

Our correspondent has learned that the Palestinian delegation's talks were fruitful and positive. They comprehensively reviewed Palestinian-Soviet relations, the serious and explosive situation in the Arab region and the imperialist onslaught on it, and the PLO role in confronting this plot. They also reviewed the firm CPSU support for the Palestinian people, their just cause, and the PLO, so as to enable the Palestinian people to establish their independent state on their national soil under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. During these meetings, Brother Abu Iyad expressed Fatah's appreciation for the firm, principled USSR stand in support of our Palestinian people's struggle to restore their inalienable national rights.

Salah Khalaf on Talks

LD210211 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Here is a dispatch from the radio correspondent in Moscow about the visit by a Fatah delegation:

Dear brothers, Ahmad 'Abd al-Karim, information representative attached to the Fatah Central Committee delegation which is having talks in Moscow, is speaking to you. The delegation representing the Central Committee of Fatah, led by Brother Abu Iyad, [Salah Khalaf] member of the Central Committee of Fatah, met the delegation of the CPSU Central Committee, led by Mr Karen Brutents, deputy head of the International Department of the CPSU Central Committee. The senior Soviet official welcomed the Fatah delegation and expressed the importance of the visit during this dangerous stage through which the Arab region and the Middle East are passing, as a result of attempts by imperialist forces aimed at imposing their plans, obstructing all attempts and political means to reach a just solution to the region's crisis, and burying the rights of the Palestinian Arab people, confirming the importance of the meeting with the Fatah Central Committee delegation, which is the leadership of the basic organization of the Palestinian revolution.

Brother Abu Iyad presented a detailed explanation of the nature of political events through which the Palestinian revolution and the Arab region are passing and on the intrigues and conspiracies which imperialist and reactionary forces are trying to plant in an attempt to deal a blow to the Arab national liberation movement and weaken its vanguard, the Palestinian revolution led by the PLO, pointing to the big role played by Fatah in the confrontation of all these imperialist-Zionist intrigues by shouldering the historical responsibility for the struggle of the Palestinian people and leading the PLO. Brother Abu Iyad confirmed the eagerness of Fatah to maintain the unity of all Arab national and progressive forces in confronting imperialism and Zionism in the Arab region and the importance of solidarity with all the progressive and revolutionary forces in the world, confirming the determination of the Palestinian revolution to continue the struggle in all its military and political forms until the achievement of the Palestinian people's aspiration to return to its homeland, achieve self-determination, and establish an independent Palestinian state on its national soil.

Brother Abu Iyad saluted the great role played by the USSR's people, government, and party in supporting the struggle of the Arab peoples and the Palestinian revolution led by the PLO in all fields. Brother Abu Iyad, member of the Central Committee, made a statement to the radio representative at the end of the Palestinian-Soviet talks, in which he said: Our talks with the Soviet side dealt with the situation inside the PLO and its unity, and the latest developments in the Palestinian problem and the Arab situation in general. Also the talks referred to the current discussions and the dialogue on Palestinian national unity being held in Algeria. Brother Abu Iyad said I want to confirm here that our talks were held in a frank, sincere, and comfortable atmosphere. On relations among the PLO, Syria, and Jordan, Brother Abu Iyad said as regards our relations with Syria, since the Tripoli battle and the departure of the fighters from there, we have been trying by all means to establish natural relations with Syria on the condition that the Palestinian national decision's independence is maintained without imposing conditions on it. He added we do not at all accept the statement that this or that leader is unacceptable to Syria, as we consider this interference in our internal affairs. Our view is that natural and equitable relations should be established with Syria without the imposition of trusteeship by any side or the other. The possibility of the success of this matter is left for the coming days, Brother Abu Iyad added, but until now nothing new has happened concerning Palestinian-Syrian relations and, to be exact, in Fatah relations with Syria. All that we have heard lately is that the Algerian delegation led by Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia returned with a negative attitude from Syria. We heard some conditions which we cannot announce here but, in general, we say we do not accept conditions concerning our relations with any Arab regime and this also applies with Syria. Brother Abu Iyad denied what has been lately attributed to Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution and Executive Committee chairman, to the effect that he had ordered the transfer of the leadership apparatuses of Fatah and the editorial board of the Palestinian magazine and the Palestine Studies Center to Cairo. He confirmed in this respect that this report is untrue and I can here deny the transfer of the PLO or Fatah apparatus, which exist in more than one Arab capital, to Cairo. The only decision concerns the Palestine Research Center, which is to be transferred to Cairo. The intention of all this propaganda and reportage is to confuse public opinion and try to distort the attitudes of the PLO and Fatah. As regards the holding of the conference of Moroccan Jews in Casablanca, Brother Abu Iyad said as we understood from Morocco, the objective of this conference was to bring together the Moroccan Jews within the context of the effort to return them to Morocco, since there are about 600,000 Jews of Moroccan origin in Israel.

But it seems the matter had gone beyond this and we announced that we have no connection with this conference at all, and we have many reservations concerning its work, the way the members of the conference were received, and the matters raised there, especially since the conference did not say a single word about the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the PLO, or the scope and nature of peace.

Brother Abu Iyad strongly condemned the Iranian attacks against oil tankers, especially the Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers. We consider this an infringement of the independence of the Gulf countries and its aim is to widen the scope of war between Iraq and Iran to include other Arab countries. This issue is not only directed to the Iranian leaders, but also to some of the Arab leaders who support this war directly or indirectly. We believe that this war has been prolonged at the expense of the Iraqi people and the Arab people in general, and also at the expense of Iranian blood which is being shed daily. The time has come for the world, especially Security Council members, to pay attention to this war, because the range of this war will not stop at the Gulf countries, but will spread beyond to a terrible conflict heralding more than one war. Naturally, Israel and America benefit from such wars.

Brother Abu Iyad indirectly accused Israeli intelligence of killing the general secretary of the Arab Journalists Federation, the late martyr Hanna Miqbil. He said all the groups which kill and practice terror in the Palestinian arena and call themselves Palestinians also serve Israel in a direct way, and that the hands which killed Hanna Miqbil are known for their inclinations as well as for the sources of their finance and the reasons for the assassination of this martyr, a man of thought and principles and one who carried the honor of the cause.

Hence we consider the hands which stabbed the martyr Hanna Miqbil and, before him, Nai'm Khadir and 'Ali Yasin, to be hands which serve Israel. But we cannot meet wrongdoing with wrongdoing, and this increases our adherence to the revolutionary principles of the armed struggle.

Abu Iyad urged the Palestinian resistance representatives meeting in Algiers to rise to the level of their responsibilities and reach decisions in the direction of the unity of the PLO, especially before the coming Israeli elections. Brother Abu Iyad warned that if the Israeli Labor Party wins these elections, it will raise the issue of the Jordanian option and thus drive a wedge between the PLO and Jordan.

The representatives of Palestinian groups meeting in Algieria should understand this and confront this matter by consolidating the unity of the PLO. Because the delegation to Jordan [of the power to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians] and participation [in a Jordanian delegation for talks with Israel] have been rejected, those who do not want such a delegation or participation should come up with an alternative, namely, the strong unity of the PLO and the convening of the Palestinine National Council before the Israeli elections. This is the criterion for patriotism of any Palestinian group.

We in Fatah will shoulder our responsibility and decide our attitude to the convening of the PNC after the Algiers dialogue, because the PNC cannot remain suspended forever and paralysis cannot continue inside the Palestinian legitimacy.

Reportage on Fatah Delegation Visit to Moscow

For Soviet coverage of the visit of the Fatah delegation to Moscow to prepare for the forthcoming visit of Yasir 'Arafat, see the Middle East & North Africa section of the 18 May Soviet Union *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

PLO UN Envoy Sends Message to Security Council

JN181715 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Brother Zuhdi at-Tarazi, the PLO UN observer, has sent a separate message to the Security Council protesting the barbaric Zionist attacks against Palestinian civilians in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, which led to the martyrdom and wounding of 100 Palestinian citizens.

Brother Zuhdi at-Tarazi urged the Security Council to adopt urgent and effective measures to end these attacks and safeguard the safety and security of the Palestinian citizens who are living in areas under Zionist military occupation.

Fedayeen Attack Israelis in South Lebanon

Patrol Near Juwayyah

JN181714 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Palestinian-National Lebanese Resistance men have launched a machine gun and rocket attack against a Zionist military patrol near the town of Juwayyah, east of Tyre. Several Zionist soldiers were killed or wounded.

A Zionist military spokesman admitted the operation, but did not mention any losses.He said that the Zionist forces cordoned off the area and carriedout an extensive search for the resistance men, who returned safelyto base.

Explosive Charges Near Sidon

JN191733 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1616 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Despite the Zionist invasion forces' brutal massacres agaisnt the sons of our Palestinian people in southern Lebanon in an attempt to alleviate the escalation of the joint Palestinian and Lebanese nationalist resistance operations, the hero resistance men have resumed their daring operations against the Zionist forces of invasion, inflicting on them heavy losses in life and equipment.

At a time when the enemy forces and their agents are resuming their attack on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Palestinian camp, a group of the Palestinian-Lebanese nationalist resistance men has planted remote-controlled explosive charges near a Zionist military position close to the Sidon port in southern Lebanon. The explosion of these charges resulted in heavy losses in the Zionist position, killing or wounding several Zionist soldiers. A Zionist spokesman admitted this daring operation. He said that the explosion that occurred near the Sidon port resulted in no casualties among his forces. He added that the Israeli forces launched a futile large-scale campaign in search of the resistance men.

Patrol in Sidon

JN211757 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The fighters of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint resistance are continuing their heroic operations against Zionist forces of invasion in occupied southern Lebanon. A group of resistance men attacked an Israeli patrol at the main Sidon street with rocket and machine gun fire and inflicted several casualties on it. An Israeli military spokesman admitted the operation, but claimed that only one Zionist soldier was injured. Another group of the Palestinian-Lebanese joint resistance men detonated a remote-controlled explosive charge on a road used by Zionist patrols, 10 km away from Tyre, while an Israeli patrol was passing. The explosion killed or wounded the members of the Zionist patrol. The enemy radio admitted the operation but declined to mention enemy losses. The radio said that the Israeli forces besieged the area and carried out a futile search for the resistance men.

Anti-Palestinian Designs in Lebanon Decried

JN211951 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 21 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Perhaps one of the most important issues that call for concern these days is the situation in southern Lebanon, the details that leak from the premeditated plot against this sensitive region, and the various active policies in it. It is clear that discussions and negotiations are taking place behind the scenes among the various sides that are directly concerned with this region. These discussions and negotiations revolve around dealing with the southern Lebanese region in isolation from a unified Lebanese territory, as though southern Lebanon has no relations with northern or central Lebanon.

The Israelis' murderous acts in our Palestinian 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp are being dealt with as if they are isolated from the Lebanese situation. The various sides are trying to confine these acts to an action that is directed only at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp, and not at the entire Palestinian existence in southern Lebanon. In fact, there is a plan to use the afflicted southern Lebanese region in a strategic plan within the policy of dismembering Lebanon and transforming the south into a buffer zone among the various parties.

A review of various statements that are being issued here and there indicates such policies. These statements were confined to the Zionist forces' operations of killing and demolishing in the camp, without any dealing with the dimensions of these operations which are aimed against the entire Palestinian existence there. Is there an agreement among the concerned parties to empty the south of the Palestinian presence, which has always disturbed the parties that call for reaching an agreement with the Zionist entity over the Palestinian dead body? Yesterday, certain responsible Arab sides made statements in which they voiced their desire to ensure Israel's northern borders for it. These statements come amid Israeli crimes in our 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp. They show how low these sides have gone in removing obstacles from the Zionist enemy path. The Palestinian evacuation from Beirut and northern Lebanon has already been accomplished. Today, a plot, which is aimed at ending the Palestinian presence in southern Lebanon, is emerging.

Any observer of events must realize that there are many deals that aim to empty all the Lebanese areas of any Palestinian presence so as to divide Lebanon up into cantons or some other similar entities on the basis of sectarianism, which is hindered primarily by the Palestinian element. What is being designed for southern Lebanon is more than meets the eye. we are aware that such a scheme will sooner or later consume those who are drawing it up.

Arab Information Ministers Meet in Qatar

GF210917 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Today Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kuwari opened at the Sheraton Hotel the meeting of the seven-member committee of the Arab information ministers. The meeting is designed to formulate a joint political information plan on the international arena. In his opening speech, he greeted the information ministers taking part in the meeting and wished them success in attaining results that will firmly propel the information action in the direction of confronting the savage campaigns which are directed against the Arab nation at all times. He called for the adoption of well-studied steps to confront the challenges from the Western and Zionist media which have deepened the gap between the Arab nation and the Western world and created an atmosphere antagonistic to the Arabs in the world and a misunderstanding of their just issues. He also asserted the importance of benefiting from the great developments in information media and of massing all the material, human, and technical resources to confront campaigns of distortion and criticism which are aimed at the Arab nation and its noble history and culture. He also called for establishing scientific and practical plans in order to address world public using modern methods.

Information Ministers Meeting Ends

GF211328 Doha Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] The 7-member committee of Arab information ministers concluded its meeting today under Information Minister 'Isa Ghanim al-Kawwari. The committee issued a number of recommendations affirming the need to cover all international scenes with a versatile and intensive media action to face the mounting Zionist and imperialist assault against the Arab nation and its fateful causes.

In a statement which the committee issued after concluding its meeting, the committee said the recommendations included approving the joint Arab media plan on the American scene and other international scenes and setting up the independently controllled Arab information institution, which was proposed by the Arab League Secretariat General. The statement said these recommendations will be passed on to their majesties, highnesses, and excellencies — Arab kings and presidents — during the next Arab summit conference for approval.

The statement noted that the committee convened in Doha at Qatar's honorable invitation under 'Isa Ghanim al-Kawwari and that it discussed its agenda topics which were prepared by the Arab League Secretariat General and discussed all proposals and suggestions to put forward a joint Arab media plan on the international scenes. The committee also sent cables of thanks and appreciation to his highness the amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, and another cable to His Highness Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, heir apparent and minister of defense.

Arab League Mission Visits Japan for Oil Talks

For reportage on the visit by the Arab League mission visiting Japan for talks with Japanese officials, see the Japan section of the 21 May Asia & Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

KUNA Reports OPEC Development Fund Report

LD211816 Kuwait KUNA in English 1635 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Vienna, May 21, (KUNA) — The annual report on the seventh year of operation of "The OPEC Fund for International Development" will be released here Tuesday following its adoption by the fifth annual session of the fund's ministerial council.

The 54-page report draws attention to the fact that since 1976 commitments for all loan and grants purposes exceeded 3,000 million U.S. dollars, of which it had disbursed to beneficiaries more than 2,000 million dollars.

During 1983 alone, the fund committed 211 million dollars of loans and grants and disbursed nearly 350 million dollars. The term loans comprises three types on concessional terms: extend-ing from balance-of-payments loans to loans for projects and programs.

In addition to these loans, grants are provided for technical assistance and similar activities, also contributions to support other institutions. The latter activity includes contributions to the IMF's trust fund, to the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and to the common fund for commodities. One grant valued at 1,260,000 dollars will assist the vocational training program of UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees in the Near East.

The flow of concessional assistance to Third World countries became less generous in 1983, and its future is less certain, thefund's chief operating officer, director general Dr. Y. Sayyid 'Abdallahi said in the report's introduction. The report is formally introduced by a letter of transmittal to the ministerial council by 'Usama Faqukh, chairman of the fund's governing board.

The record of the fund, based on the cumulative data, is an impressive one. At the end of 1983 (and since mid-1976) loans for balance of payments support, for projects as well as for programs have been signed for a total sum of 1,812 million U.S. dollars. Two-thirds of this committment had actually been disbursed. Three-quarters of its benefits the "least developed" or "most seriously affected" Third World countries, as defined by the United Nations. Project loans account for over 1,000 million dollars of the total just quoted, the fund's 8th program loans so far just exceed 62 million dollars. About 687 million dollars comprises loans for balance of payments support.

The disbursement of four project loans in 1983 shows as approximate 13 percent increase over 1982 but disbursements of balance of payments support loans decreased.

The fund's for program loans during 1983 were committed on the basis of 24 agreements signed. Two of these — a commodity import program for Bangladesh and the Kimbiji hydrocarbon exploration project in Tanzania — have been financed solely by the fund, all other loans contribute to co-financed investments. These projects involve a committment for the fund of 157 million dollars. The nine energy-oriented programs involve among others Jordan, Pakistan, Yemen Arab Republic and Madagascar. In the transportation projects are in three countries, in agriculture projects in five countries include Mauritania and Senegal, in water supply and sewage sector in four African and Asian countries and one education program in Mauritania.

The balance of payments support loans dwindled during 1983 to 25,500,000 U.S. dollars.

Technical [word indistinct] activities were financed in 1983 by grants totalling slightly over 400,000 dollars. For research activities 107,000 were allocated in form of seven grants. Four other grants totalling over four million dollars were signed to cover four countries' subscription to the 'common fund for commodities'.

Seven research organizations in as many developing countries belonging to the consultative group on international agricultural research were given 2,200,000 dollars. Other grants went to the African Center for Fertilizer Development and the International Development Law Institute. The cumulative total of the fund's grants for food aid and related activities stood at 90.1 million dollars, according to the OPEC fund's annual report for 1983.

GULF AFFAIRS

GCC Foreign Ministers Set Urgent UNSC Meeting

LD211738 Kuwait KUNA in English 1612 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] United Nations, May 21 (KUNA) — The foreign ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) are expected to arrive here later this week for an urgent meeting of the Security Council to discuss the widening conflict in the Arabian Gulf, Kuwaiti Ambassador Muhammad Abu al-Hasan told KUNA Monday.

Abu al-Hasan and 'Abdallah Bisharah, secretary-general of the GCC, met with the UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar earlier in the day to discuss the GCC desire for a meeting.

Abu al-Hasan said the secretary-general "is fully aware of the position of the GCC" and has expressed his deep concern about the situation.

The council meeting, called by the GCC following Sunday's condemnation of Iran by the Arab League foreign ministers in Tunis, will likely take place next Thursday or Friday Bisharah said.

A draft resolution will be worked out by the Arab group within the next few days but Bisharah said it was too early to know the precise wording at this time.

The GCC would like to see the council take steps to bring the war to an end following repeated attacks on ships in the Arabian Gulf.

The United States, however, is reported to be in favour of limiting any council actions to the narrower issue of the protection of navigation rights.

Bisharah and the GCC ambassadors met later with Council President Oleg Troyanovskiy of the Soviet Union to table a formal request for a meeting.

The request, signed by the representatives of the six GCC members, called on the council "to consider the Iranian aggressions on the freedom of navigation to and from the ports of our countries. Such aggressions constitute a threat to the ability and safety of the area and have serious implications to international peace and security."

Following the meeting with Troyanovskiy, Bisharah told reporters the foreign ministers would ask for urgent steps "to contain the conflict between Iran and Iraq with a view to eliminating it."

The foreign ministers expected to attend the session are from Kuwait, Qatar and possibly Bahrain. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, currently in Tokyo with other Arab foreign ministers will also attend, the Iraqi representative here told KUNA.

BAHRAIN

'Conditional' U.S. Protection Offer Assailed

GF181400 Manama AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ in Arabic

18 May 84 pp 1, 4

[Untitled editorial]

[Text] The continuation of the Gulf war threatens incalculable dangers: First we had the oil slick, now we have the oil tankers crisis, and who knows what we will have tomorrow. The war had reached an impasse a long time ago and a military solution is not possible. The battlefronts have cooled while other fronts that should not have been inflamed were.

Silence on the war's continuation means acquiescence to its escalation and expansion. Regrettably, this is the stand taken by the great powers which undoubtedly are capable of ending the war but are refraining from making any effort to achieve this end. They appear pleased with every escalation and try to exploit to achieve their old objective of intervening in the region. Indeed, they predict the next escalation and try to make use of it beforehand. The proof is last month's offer by the United States to the Gulf Arab countries — disclosed by the U.S. State Department yesterday — to provide protection to oil tankers in the Gulf under certain conditions.

The U.S. State Department has expressed regret that the offer was not accepted by any Arab country, and we here express our regret at the conditions attached to the offer because they reflect an opportunism unfit for a superpower — a superpower that has previously claimed that it is anxious to maintain the freedom of international shipping and pledged to safeguard the continuation of the flow of oil from the Gulf to the West.

The United States stipulated that the area countries should extend to it an official invitation and grant it rights in the ports and on land — as though it is the only country that represents good in the world, and as though it had never intervened in the past, and as though it is not allied with the Arab nation's principal enemy, the Zionist enemy. The United States also stipulated that its allies, such as Britain and France, should participate in such efforts. This reminds us of the ill-famed Multinational Force in Lebanon. The United States also stipulated — and this is the strangest condition — that it remain neutral, as it is now, thus allowing the war to continue while it protects us from its consequences!

We have said in the past that the neutrality of the superpowers in a war like this one is not a virtue. We ask, why doesn't the United States make an offer to end the war and in return set any conditions it wishes on the two warring countries and on the other countries being harmed by the war? Then the United States will have the right to regret if its offer is not accepted by the area countries.

Niger's Foreign Minister Arrives for Visit

GF211157 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1000 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 21 May (WAKH) — Niger Foreign Minister Ide Oumarou arrived in Manama today on a 1-day visit during which he will hold talks with Bahraini officials along with the preparations for the international refugee conference that will convene in Geneva next month.

KUWAIT

AR-RA'Y AL-AMM Criticizes U.S. Policy Toward Arabs

LD221247 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0718 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, 22 May (KUNA) — Kuwait's *AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM* today expresses its belief that the Arab-American trade and economic relations seminar which started here yesterday "will only encourage the United States to persist in its policy of blustering against the Arabs." The paper adds that "it would have been better not to have the seminar at all and to cancel it in protest against U.S. policy which is hostile to the Arabs."

The paper points out that the United States "does not want the Arabs, or any other people for that matter, to do anything but consume American and Western goods, and not to think at all about their national and pan-Arab interests. Furthermore, the United States plays an unjust role against us in our most cherished and sacred cause." The paper says that the Americans and the Westerners "want us to remain asleep and not to make any move, raise any voice, nor fire a bullet against the usurping enemy, because all these things disturb the bloodsuckers in the American-NATO-Zionist cartel." The paper notes that one of the American guests objected to what he called the involvment of political matters in economic discussions and said that it seems the huge figures cited by President of the Kuwaiti Chamber of Commerce and Industry 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Saqr about the volume of exchange and Arab investments in the United States "have not satisfied the appetite of the Americans, and so they ask us not to mix economics with politics."

The paper concludes that what Minister of Finance and Oil Shaykh 'Ali al-Khalifah, as-Saqr, the other participants from Kuwait, and Arab participants have all said about the impossibility of separating economic matters from political matters "is proof of the disgust the Arabs have for American policy in the region: It refuses to maintain a balanced stand in Palestine and Syria and it refuses to take a sincere and committed stand in the Gulf with regard to the war between Iraq and Iran by seeking peace."

AL-ANBA' Scores Iran for Bombing Tankers

GF181846 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 17 May 84 pp 1, 21

[Column by 'Abdallah Ahmad Husayn, Kuwait's former ambassador to Morocco: "The Known Unidentified Planes"]

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti oil tanker *Umm Casbah* was bombed and later another tanker *Bahrah* was also. The two incidents took place out of the Iraqi-declared war zone against the Iranian regime and far away from the siege of "Khark," the "Iranian" oil island.

It is illogical to assume Iraq bombed the tankers owing to the national nexus, to the Kuwaiti-Iraqi ties and to Kuwait's national positions with regard to the Gulf war in addition to the fact the two tankers were bombed in the regions which Iraq allowed vessels in the Gulf to use. It is also illogical that an Arab Gulf country undertake such an act owing to the national ties and to GCC membership. In addition, there is no insane Arab leader who executes such an operation.

The bombing of the two tankers is a flagrant threat to our economy and the cutting off of our oil vein. Moreover, this will be a serious insult if we do not retaliate in a suitable manner. Our territorial waters and the international waters in the Gulf will be certainly threatened. If the proper blows are not dealt to the piracy, then the era of piracy will flourish in the Gulf waters anew.

The Persians used this tactic with Iraq before the outbreak of the war. Whenever Iraq remained silent following a Persian blow, this was followed by another blow which caused the situation to explode and the war to declared. The Persian regime is no longer a threat only to the Arabs. It is a threat to all humanity and it has to be confronted by international action. As the superpowers are responsible for its policy of going too far on an evil random path, the Arab Gulf countries are responsible, in the first place, for cutting off its nails and delivering the region from its evils.

It is evident that awaiting the Persians' return to reason is an imaginary matter that wastes time, and that those who confront the Persians with flowers are similar to those who confront them with guns. It is also evident that action is needed so matters will not be more complicated than before.

We absolutely must not be easy with those who bombed the two Kuwaiti tankers. We have to protect our commercial fleet and make our people and all the Arabs that our weapons are efficient, and that when we spent huge sums of money to possess them we comprehended the implications of their possession. We have to manage. As we are asked to be reasonable and to resort to wisdom, we also have to have courage. As we were successful in self-restraint we also have to be successful in initiating action.

National Assembly Hits Morocco Over Jewish Congress

LD191836 Kuwait KUNA in English 1615 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Kuwait, May 18 (KUNA) — Members of Kuwait National Assembly criticised Saturday Morocco's hosting of the recent Jewish congress saying it offended Arab and Islamic feelings and caused new divisions within the Arab world. Deputy speaker Ahmad as-Sa'dun said in an ordinary session: "Holding the congress on the anniversary of usurping Palestine amounted to a Moroccan contribution to the Zionists' celebration of this occasion in addition to offending Arab and Islamic nations."

As-Sa'dun added that the congress "was a result of events on Arab arena including treasons directly or indirectly committed by some Arab regimes."

He linked between Arab governments' silence on the congress and their silence during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and crimes it committed against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples including the series of massacres in Palestinian refugee camps, the last one of which was last week's carnage at 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

The deputy speaker added that the Moroccan Government was encouraged to host the congress by "previous contacts of a number of Arab officials with the Zionists."

Chairman of the foreign affairs committee, Jasim as-Saqr, expressed surprise at the new stance of the Moroccan Government which he said played a patriotic and nationalist role since the rule of King Mohammad V, the father of King Hassan.

Deputy 'Abd al-Muhsin Jamal charged, "No Arab country makes peace with the (Israeli) enemy without having some degree of support from some colluding Arab regimes and.... Morocco's hosting of the Jewish congress is a result of this collusion."

He praised the stance of Deputy Premier, Foreign and Information Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad who denounced reports that Kuwait was one of the countries that allegedly gave their tacit support to holding the congress.

Morocco's predominantly Muslim population includes some 20,000 Jews, and the two-day congress was attended by an Israeli delegation including members of the Israeli Knesset representing some half a million Israelis of Moroccan origin.

Defense Minister Temporarily Assumes Other Posts

LD201122 Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] A decree has been issued commissioning Salim Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah, in addition to his work as minister of defense, to shoulder the work of the minister of foreign affairs and minister of information during the absence of Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir as-Sabah, the deputy prime minister, minister of foreign affairs, and minister of information, who is abroad.

Coast Guard Arrests 90 'Infiltrators'

GF181136 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 17-18 May 84 p 4

[Text] Ninety people have been arrested by Kuwait's coastguards for trying to infiltrate into the country by sea. The problem of infiltrators was not new to Kuwait, and the country was not the only one in the area to face the problem, said the director of the coastguards, Lt Col 'Abd al-Muhsin ad-Duwaysh. But he said his department, which operated round-the-clock patrols in Kuwait's territorial waters, was capable of foiling any infiltration bid. Lt Col ad-Duwaysh also revealed that the department was to receive two helicopters to back up its services. Meanwhile, the director of sea operations for the coastguards, Major Fajhan al-Mukhlid, said his department supervised the patrols and was also responsible for training. He said the coastguards were the country's main marine force and protected the coasts from infiltrators and smugglers.

SAUDI ARABIA

Council Hears King on Gulf Security Measures

LD212245 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1825 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 21 May (SPA) — King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has chaired the meeting which the Council of Ministers held this evening.

Following the meeting His Excellency the Minister of Information Ali ash-Sha'ir told SPA, radio, and TV that the evening session was confined to discussing the urgent security developments in the Arab Gulf waters over the last few days as a result of the air attacks to which Kuwaiti and Saudi tankers were subjected. In this context his majesty expressed satisfaction at the resolutions of the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council. His Majesty explained to the Council the immediate measures which the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has taken concerning the regrettable events. Also his majesty acquainted it with the results of the contacts held by the Kingdom with sister Arab and Islamic countries in order to deal with this matter with possible peaceful means.

His majesty, may God preserve him, also confirmed the determination of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to enlist all its military capabilities in the defense of regional integrity and national sanctities should there be need for this. His majesty said the Saudi Armed Forces have taken all the defensive measures necessary in such circumstances. His excellency the minister of information ended his statement saying we beseech God the Almighty to make us safe in our homeland, preserve our religion, spare us sedition and intrigues, and grant us soundness in word and action.

AFP Quotes Yamani on Defense Capability

NC220745 Paris AFP in English 0709 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Brussels, May 22 (AFP) — Saudi Arabian Oil Minister Shaykh Ahmad Zaki Yamani warned Iran and — indirectly — Iraq Monday night that "if we are attacked, we will defend ourselves."

The diplomat told a conference at the university here that he hoped nothing would happen, but added, "thanks to Western aid, Saudi Arabia has a good air defense."

"Iraq has the military power to prevent Iran from exporting its oil and, under war laws, even if it's not an excuse, it has the right to do it," the shaykh said.

But "no one has the right to attack a ship in our waters," he said.

Shaykh Yamani asked the United States "to stop the continuing action of their allies, especially Korea, Taiwan and mostly Israel, in providing Iran with military supplies."

Asked about possible U.S. air cover for tankers, Shaykh Yamani said, "no one will invite the U.S.A. to come without thinking of the Soviet Union coming."

If deliveries of Gulf oil were cut off completely, the West would suffer no matter what other sources there were, the shaykh said.

"We expect Germany and Japan to open their very important reserves so as to prevent any panic on the marketplace," he said.

He confirmed that Saudi Arabia has a floating stock of oil reserves aboard tankers cruising in different seas, but he refused to gave details on amounts or locations.

The stocks were set up "for the benefit of the world," he said.

Iranian Military Escalation in Gulf Discussed

LD211346 Riyadh SPA in English 1215 GMT 21 May 84

[Press review]

[Text] Riyadh, May 21, SPA — The latest developments in the Gulf region in the light of Iranian military escalations in the area and the upcoming 13th Arab summit due to take place in the second half of November. [sentence as received]

AL-JAZIRAH, published here, urged the international community to shoulder its responsibility to preserve the Gulf region's stability and back current Arab efforts to ensure peace and security in such a vital area.

The paper called for imposing economic, trade and military as well as political sanctions against Iran if it continued to go ahead with its irresponsible actions in the area such as bombing oil tankers in the Gulf waters.

It warned against the consequences of Iran's aggression aimed at escalating the war in the region and turning it to an international conflict.

AR-RIYADH, published here, condemned the Iranian stand which aimed at widening the area of war to hit at vital Arab and Islamic interests and providing pretexts for foreign intervention in the region.

It said the Iranian regime had been trying openly to have a control over the whole area and to invite big powers to intervene in the area.

The paper warned that recent Iranian escalations might be a new attempt to strike at Arab countries through the gate of Iran and the Gulf Area.

The Jidda-based *AL-BILAD* stressed that despite the recent Iran's aerial attacks on Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, which is considered a dangerous escalation in the Gulf war, the Kingdom would never abandon its policy to deal with the situation in a peaceful way out of its responsibility to preserve the Islamic solidarity and bring about an speedy end to the Iran-Iraq war through peaceful channels.

It noted the remarks made by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud in Tunis in which he observed that Iranian aerial attacks on oil tankers in Gulf waters were open violations of principles of good neighbourhood and Islamic solidarity and norms of international law.

Commenting on the upcoming Arab summit, the Dammam-based *AL-YAWM* said the Arab world was in a dire need for such a high-level meeting so as to work out a collective and effective strategy, capable of facing challenges and dangers in the region.

It added that the Arab world was now facing worst phase in its contemporary history when Israel had been continuing its aggression freely against the Arab nation without any punishment.

The paper questioned the value of the joint Arab defence treaty if it fails to deter such repeated Zionist aggression against the Arab nation.

'Authoritative' Source on Yanbu Pride Rescue Moves

LD212116 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1355 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, 21 May (KUNA) — In a statement published here today, an authoritative Saudi source denied the presence of any oil leakage in the Saudi tanker *Yanbu Pride* bombed by the Iranian Air Force outside the prohibited military operations zone northwest of the Gulf last Wednesday.

AR-RIYAD quotes the director of the Saudi meteorological and environment protection department, Dr Mansur ar-Rumayh as saying that a leakage has only occured in the fuel tank which was hit by the Iranian fighter aircraft.

It is worth mentioning that the tanker *Yanbu Pride*, whose total capacity is 210,000 metric tons, was not carrying its full capacity when it was attacked. It was only carrying 100,000 metric tons.

It planned to arrive at the Saudi Ra's Tannurah Port from Kuwait to take on 80,000 metric tons, but the tanker was bombed before arrival.

The newspaper points out that contacts are taking place to empty the cargo of *Yanbu Pride* which is more than 87 kilometers from the Saudi shore to the northeast of Ra's Tannurah. It mentions that aircraft patrols of the environment protection and the civil defense departments are watching the tanker.

Yanbu Pride was carrying Kuwaiti oil on its way to Brazil when it was bombed by aggressive Iranian aircraft.

On the other hand a salvage company in Bahrain mentioned that special units are currently transferring 340,000 metric tons of oil from the Saudi supertanker *Safina al-Arab*, which was exposed to an air attack in the Gulf on 25 April, to a Swedish tanker.

Informed sources said that similar efforts are being made to pump 114,000 metirc tons from the Saudi supertanker *Al-Ahud* to another tanker, but there are difficulties according to what the Gulf oil experts say. *Al-Ahud* was hit as a result of an air raid in the Arabian Gulf on 7 May and caught fire. Special teams of firemen were able to extinguish the fire after 2 days, but there still is a danger that the tanker might explode because of the high temperature.

King Fahd Receives ICO's Habib Chatti

LD211529 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 21 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, received today at his Royal Court in Jidda Secretary General of the ICO Habib Chatti.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Mut'ib ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the minister of public works and housing, His Royal Highness Prince Muqrin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Habil Region, and His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Niger Foreign Minister Oumarou Visits Jidda

LD191316 Riyadh SPA in English 1200 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Jidda, may 19, SPA — Niger's Foreign Minister Ide Oumarou arrived here last night on a few days visit to Saudi Arabia during which he will convey a message from Niger President Seyni Kountche.

On his arrival, he was greeted by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and a member of the Saudi cabinet and other senior officials.

Delivers Letter to King

LD201350 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1330 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Jidda, 20 may (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received a letter from the president of Niger, Seyni Kountche.

The letter was delivered by the Niger foreign minister, Ide Oumarou, during his meeting with his majesty the king today at his office at the royal court in the presence of His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

Departs 21 May

LD210900 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0750 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Jidda 21 May (SPA) — Niger Foreign Minister Ide Oumarou left Jidda this morning on his way to Bahrain after a 3-day visit to the Kingdom.

Mr Oumarou has delivered a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz from Niger's President Seyni Kountche.

Political Material Forbidden During Hajj Rituals

LD201353 Riyadh SPA in English 1238 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Riyadh, May 20, SPA — Saudi Interior Ministry has warned pilgrims to refrain from bringing with them any political books, photographs or leaflets during their performance of hajj rituals.

The warning came within instructions issued by the Pilgrimage and Endowments Ministry here today.

The Interior Ministry's warning said it would never hestitate over facing the violators of these instructions and that they would receive very tough sentences.

The Pilgrimage and Endowments Ministry's instructions said August 22 will be the final day for the reception of applications for hajj visas at the Saudi consulates abroad.

UAE

Navy to Hold Live Ammunition Maneuvers 21-22 May

GF191047 Doha QNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 19 May (QNA) — The command of the UAE Navy has announced it will carry out maneuvers with live ammunition from Monday morning until Tuesday evening.

In a press statement today, the command warned all ships and fishermen against approaching the maneuvers area out of concern for the safety of all.

The statement defined the exercises area from Khawr Khuwawr in the north to Abu Dhabi: from Abu Dhabi to Ra's Hasyan; from Ra's Hasyan to Khawr Khuwawr; and from Sir Abu Nu'ayr Island and the fishing areas in al-Khaws, (Nuwayat Khalfan), (Nuwayat al-Mazarib), Abu Khars, 'Ulaywi, Arbalah, and (Nuwayat) Ra's Ghurab.

Mubarak Sends Messages to African Leaders

NC211356 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1305 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today sent messages to all African leaders on the occasion of Africa Day, which falls on 25 May and coincides with the 21st anniversary of the establishment of the OAU and the signing of its Charter. In his messages, President Mubarak reiterated Egypt's policy, which tries to safeguard the OAU's principles and objectives and defend its unity, achieve African solidarity, and strengthen cooperation among all African countries in all fields.

Mubarak Promotes Navy Commander to Vice Admiral

NC210955 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0845 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Alexandria, 21 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has issued a decree promoting Navy Commander Rear Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad to the rank of vice admiral. The president decorated the vice admiral with his new rank on board the new rocket frigate *Suez*.

Mubarak Inaugurates Six New Naval Units

NC211045 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] Alexandria, 21 May (MENA) — President Muhammad Husni Mubarak this morning hoisted the flag of Egypt over six new naval units to mark their entrance into active service in the Egyptian Navy. Those units include a frigate, two submarines, and three antisubmarine ships. The president arrived at the Navy headquarters in Ra's at-Tin [in Alexandria] at 0900, accompanied by Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production. He was welcomed there by Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chief of staff; Lieutenant General Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Hilmi, Air Force commander; Rear Admiral 'Ali Tawfiq Jad, Navy commander; and Rear Admiral Faruq Abu al-'Izz, Navy chief of staff.

Abu Ghazalah Attends Final Day of Naval Maneuvers

NC201415 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1315 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpts] Alexandria, 20 May (MENA) — Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, and the chief of staff, Lieutenant General Ibrahaim al-'Arabi, today attended the concluding stage of the large annual naval forces maneuvers, "An-Nur," which lasted 9 days. Forty fighting naval units took part in the maneuvers. The naval forces' annual maneuvers, code-named "An-Nur," began on 12 May in a large area of the Mediterranean. A large number of modern rocket launcher units of the Ramadan and October class, which are armed with "Automat" surface-to-surface missiles, were used in the maneuvers. A large number of submarines, naval paratroops units, frogmen, airborne units, formations from the air, land forces, and air defense forces, and units from the electronic war [forces] also participate in the maneuvers. The joint forces that took part in the maneuvers carried out a number of operations and fighting actions in conditions similar to those that the forces might face in modern naval battles.

These maneuvers differed from previous ones in the use of helicopters to attack floating naval targets and the launching of S-12 air-to-surface missiles, in addition to the use of new types of rocket depth charges against submarines, and the participation of submarines and anti-modern submarine combat units which joined the service less than 1 month ago. The multiple use of surface-to-surface missiles in these maneuvers, both Eastern and Western made, has shown the difficulty the enemy would have in jamming and halting them.

Foreign Ministry Source Denies Treaty Violation

NC221415 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1323 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA) — A responsible source in the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has affirmed that Egypt precisely adheres to the implementation of the military appendix of the peace treaty between Egypt and Israel. He pointed out that the Multinational Force in Sinai did not make any remarks in their reports regarding the engineering preparations Egypt is making and which are outlined in the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. The responsible source was today responding to the strange campaign Israel has launched, in which it is accusing Egypt of violating the military appendix of the peace treaty signed by both countries. The source asserted that the total number of Egyptian forces east of the Suez Canal is less than that outlined in the Egyptian-Israeli agreement. The source was responding to Israel's information media, which accuses Egypt of increasing the number of its forces and fortifications east of the Suez Canal more than that specified in the agreement. It should be recalled that the Israeli campaign against Egypt is part of the Israeli attempts to influence the U.S. elections.

Foreign Minister Reiterates Policy on Iraq-Iran War

NC211502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1430 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 21 May (MENA) — Kamal Hasan 'Ali, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said Egypt's efforts and initiatives to end the escalating tension in the Gulf and the Iraq-Iran war are continuing within the framework of the Nonaligned Movement, because Iraq and Iran are two main states in the movement. In an exclusive statement to MENA, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the international community has collectively called for ending this war. He added that any effort exerted to stop the bloodshed between Iraq and Iran is very much appreciated. At the end of his statement, Kamal Hasan 'Ali said the issue of terminating the Iraq-Iran war will be discussed during the UN secretary general's visit to Egypt from 5 to 7 June.

Ghali, Al-Baz Comment on Ties With U.S., USSR

NC201431 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 20 May (MENA) — Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the presidential office for political affairs, has confirmed that there are no foreign bases on Egyptian soil and that the only existing bases are

Egyptian. He added that Egypt is not linked to any other country's policy. Our moves, he said, are based on the fact that we are a nonaligned country. We therefore do not encourage any military action by another country and Egypt is not taking part in any such action. This is what Al-Baz stated in the television program "A Subject for Discussion," in which both he and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, participated.

Ghali commented on Egyptian-Soviet relations, saying that cordial relations with both superpowers — the United States and the Soviet Union — are among the requirements of nonaligned policy.

Taking up the same subject, Al-Baz said relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union do exist and have not been severed. The only issue is to exchange ambassadors, which is a matter of routine and a question of timing that both countries will handle. This is a simple matter, Al-Baz said, and there is a mutual understanding on it.

Al-Baz added that Egypt's relations with the Soviet Union are not linked to Cairo's relations with the United States. There is a remarkable understanding between Egypt and the Soviet Union over the Middle East problem, Al-Baz said. If there is any disagreement, it is confined to the way of handling this problem. The Soviet Union favors solving the problem through an international conference, a matter which Egypt does not oppose, Al-Baz said. However, he added, it is not easy to arrange such a conference — it might take months or years to hold it — and the cold war between the Soviet Union and the United States is likely to get in the way.

Al-Baz then moved to Egyptian-U.S. relations, saying that our relations with the United States do not differ in substance from our relations with other countries. Relations with the United States are strong, Al-Baz said, but we are not members of any pact. They are relations which we are trying to promote in line with our interests. Al-Baz added that the United States has compiled some statistics about the way countries vote in the United Nations. It turns out that Egypt has voted differently from the United States 78 times in 3 years.

Ghali then talked about the Middle East crisis, saying that it will take years to solve it and that there is still a long way to go. Sooner or later, Ghali said, the need will arise for an international conference and for a Soviet role. There is an understanding that the Soviet Union should participate in the peace negotiations, but when? We cannot stand by idly in the meantime, Ghali said. Ghali added: The Camp David accords are an existing framework for action, but any other framework is also welcomed. The peace accords can be regarded as a precedent that can be simulated, he said. Ghali added: This is what happened with the 1949 truce agreement with Israel. It was later followed by similar agreements between Israel and Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. This is also what took place in the case of the disengagement agreement between Egypt and Israel.

Ghali affirmed that Egypt's stand is clear — that there will be no negotiations over the West Bank and Gaza without the participation of the Jordanian and Palestinian sides and that we cannot approve any decision concerning the future of the West Bank and Gaza without the approval of Jordan and the Palestinians.

Al-Baz said the Camp David agreement is based on UN Security Council Resolution 242. He also said it is not in our interest at all to undermine the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, which is a document signed by us. The treaty is no restriction to us and we act under our own will and from the standpoint of our full sovereignty. Referring to Egyptian-Palestinian relations and the Arab situation, Al-Baz said Egypt's stand toward the PLO is clear. According to our statistics, Egypt's efforts led 57 states to recognize the PLO. We support the PLO. During his talks in the United States, President Mubarak urged the United States to deal with the PLO. Al-Baz expressed the hope that there will be a minimum consensus among the main parties concerned with the Palestinian issue — namely, Egypt, the PLO, Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria — or at least an agreement of views among Egypt, Jordan, and the Palestinians to move along common lines to promote the Palestinian cause. In conclusion, Al-Baz called for a strong Arab stand. He said: Had there been such a strong Arab stand, there would not have been so much meddling in the Palestinian cause.

Beirut Reports on Ghali MONDAY MORNING Interview

NC201410 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, has praised Morocco for receiving 38 Israeli officials, including 8 Knesset members. In an interview which *MONDAY MORNING* magazine will publish tomorrow, Ghali said the Moroccan Jewish conference is a good event, indicating the Arabs' belief in dialogue for solving problems. Certain circles believe that Ghali is among the most enthusiastic of Egyptian officials advocating negotiations and peace with Israel. Ghali said that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak held a lengthy meeting with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat 2 months ago and that contacts between Cairo and the PLO are continuing.

Ghali said that relations between Cairo and Damascus will be improved and that the exchange of ambassadors with Moscow will not be delayed. He said Cairo's conflict with Damascus is connected with various issues, including Syria's policy toward Lebanon, but any differences between the two countries will be discussed in a constructive manner. This is the first clear indication by an Egyptian official that Syrian-Egyptian contacts have taken place. It was previously reported that Egyptian Defense Minister 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah secretly visited Damascus, but Cairo denied the report.

Energy Minister Calls for Nuclear Program

NC191420 Cairo MENA in English 1342 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 Mau (MENA) — Minister of Power and Energy Mahir Abaza stressed the need for an Egyptian nuclear program for generating power which would comprise eight nuclear stations with a capacity of eight thousand megawatt/hours that is enough to meet 40 per cent of Egypt's need of energy until the year 2000. This came today during the inaugural session of the seminar on nuclear reactor safety sponsored by the Atomic Energy Agency in collaboration with the Academy of Scientific Research and Technology and the West German Ministry of Scientific Research. Head of the Technology and Scientific Research Center Ibrahim Badran underlined the importance of carrying out an Egyptian nuclear program and starting training courses on the means of providing safety at nuclear reactors.

Nuclear Fuel Laboratory Under Construction

NC191103 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Cairo, 19 May (MENA) — Instruments and equipment needed to operate a complete laboratory for manufacturing nuclear fuel from uranium oxide will start arriving in Egypt late this year. The laboratory is under construction at a center for nuclear research in Inshas, with an estimated cost of 200,000 Egyptian pounds. The FRG is participating in building this laboratory, which will usher Egypt into the field of nuclear fuel production. Dr 'Izzat 'Abd al-'Aziz, director of the Nuclear Research Center, has stated that this is the first time nuclear fuel has been produced in Egypt. This step, he said, aims to introduce nuclear fuel-manufacturing technology in Egypt in order to bolster the national program for constructing nuclear power plants. While this phase will be confined to the laboratory, nuclear fuel will later be commercially produced in order to supply our nuclear power plants with their long-term needs, he said.

AL-AKHBAR: No U.S. Forces at Ra's Banas Base

PM171640 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 16 May 84 pp 1, 9

[Faruq ash-Shadhili report: "*AL-AKHBAR* in Ra's Banas: Egyptian Military Presence, Yes; Foreign Military Presence, No; Egyptian Forces Alone in Base Protecting Southeastern Coast"]

[Excerpts] Ra's Banas — *AL-AKHBAR* yesterday flew to the Ra's Banas base on the Red Sea coast. There we met with those working in the base and established that there is no trace of foreign forces on the Egyptian base.

The base commander said that Ra's Banas has not received any U.S. naval unit or aircraft. He said that our forces are in the base in order to protect the southeastern coast of Egypt. He stressed that rumors about the presence of foreign forces in the base are only aimed at creating confusion. He said that Ra's Banas is strategically important, just like the As-Sallum District in the northwest and the rest of the border areas. It is the southern gateway to Egypt and, therefore, it is an alarm station on Egypt's southern borders. Our forces are here for this purpose.

AL-AKHBAR had asked the deputy prime minister and ninister of defense and war production, Marshal 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, for permission to visit the base. He immediately approved and gave instructions for a military aircraft to take us to the military base. A Buffalo military aircraft carried us to the base together with a television team.

While in the air we asked to survey the base from the air. The fact that the aircraft is of the Buffalo type enabled us to fly over the base area close to the ground. The aircraft flew over the base for over half an hour, but nothing unusual was seen. We then took a jeep which drove us around the extensive base. We left the base by car and drove about 10 km, where we came to a small village. We had a meeting with Naval Lieutenant Colonel 'Usayn Muhammad Bashir, commanding officer of the base, which is administratively under the principal base in Safajah. The first question we put to him was: What is the truth about the U.S. presence in the base?

He said: I have often heard this rumor and I am surprised. Did the Americans come to the base without us knowing? Why did we not see them? I need not assure you that there is no foreign presence of any kind in this area. You have seen everything with your own eyes. Such rumors are spread by those who are trying to create disturbances or have political motives for such rumors. I assure you once again that there is no foreign presence in Ra's Banas. You are here and you can see everything.

I asked: What is the function of the naval forces in this area?

He said: We are here to protect Egyptian coasts at the southeastern end and to guard and protect offshore waters, because this is a strategically important area just like the As-Sallum area in the northeast and the rest of the border areas.

I asked the base commander: What is the truth about the reports that a number of contracting companies are working on the base?

Lieutenant Colonel Bashir said: There are no contracting companies in the area. The development that is being carried out in the base is undertaken by the Armed Forces' projects department, the military works department, and officials from various services.

I asked: Has the base received any U.S. naval vessels?

He replied: Absolutely not. We have received only Egyptian military units, including those now present here in the base which carry out patrol duties.

We then met with Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Mun'im Ahmad, the air base commander. He is respected by all the base personnel and has succeeded in creating a family atmosphere among officers and men at the base.

Question: What is the function of the Ra's Banas base?

Answer: It is a base like any other base for our Air Force. It is used in order to serve all aircraft. We can also provide service to any aircraft in the area in the event of an emergency.

Question: What about reports about the arrival of U.S. aircraft at the base?

Answer: You have seen everything inside the base. Did you see anything that is not Egyptian? The base is 100 percent Egyptian. The aircraft that come here are Egyptian. We daily receive aircraft that have to do with the base's special efforts [as published] or belong to the base's basic forces.

Question: Does this mean that no U.S. aircraft have arrived here or passed from here?

Answer: This needs no explanation. No aircraft from any other country has arrived here.

Question: Do you provide assistance to U.S. aircraft?

Answer: This has not happened during my service at the base, which is now over 1 year. Also I did not hear from my previous colleagues that anything of this sort happened. These are facts that need no explaining. They are as clear as the sun and need no comment.

AL-AHRAM on Gulf, Possible U.S. Military Role

NC220634 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 22 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AHRAM* today says that the Gulf countries are currently mobilizing to defend themselves against the continuous attacks launched by the Iranian regime. The paper says that all eyes are presently riveted on the Gulf. Meanwhile, it adds, we must not ignore the possible repercussions there and how they relate to imperial designs elsewhere. The paper notes that the GCC is meeting to probe the situation with prospects for planning military schemes in which the United States may participate with an air cover or with naval forces — forces which, according to the U.S. defense secretary, have been there for years and will remain there for years.

AL-AHRAM Comments on Conditions in Libya

NC200533 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the title "Self-Imposed Siege," *AL-AHRAM* comments on conditions in Libya. The paper says that even if we confine ourselves to official statements emanating from there, we can still conclude that a genuine blow has been dealt to the Libyan regime. That regime is having problems keeping matters under control in Libya.

This conclusion is corroborated by the fact that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has been compelled to live permanently in military barracks. In other words, for a long time he has been and continues to live in an impregnable fortress under tight security — under siege.

AL-AKHBAR on Israeli Statements on 'Ayn al-Hulwah

NC210754 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0425 GMT 21 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AL-AKHBAR* in its editorial today comments on the Israeli attack against Palestinians living in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in southern Lebanon. Scores of Palestinians were either wounded or arrested during this attack. The paper expresses its dismay over the statements made yesterday by an Israeli official, in which he defended the massacre, even though this action was condemned by the entire world. Reiterating the Israeli stand that the operation was directed against Palestinian fedayeen, the official announced that Israel will press ahead with such operations against Palestinian camps — notwithstanding all the international uproar over this recklessness.

Furthermore, the Israeli official ridiculed the discussions which the UN Security Council will hold today on this subject in response to an Arab request. The official shamelessly defended terrorist Israeli operations directed against innocent dwellers of Palestinian camps. *AL-AKHBAR* took issue with the Israeli official's claim that the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp housed more than 3000 Palestinian fedayeen,because he overlooks the fact that camp inhabitants — women, children, and old included — rebuilt this camp in a record period following its destruction during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the tragic summer of 1982. The fact that they rebuilt their camp proves beyond doubt, the paper says, that they yearn to live in peace. The paper concludes by saying that the statements made by the Israeli official should be termed as impertinent and irresponsible.

Paper: Khark Island Facilities Will Be Hit

GF221204 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] Manama, 22 May (WAKH) — Iraq today asserted that the escalation of deterrence is the only way to end the war and to make the Iranians see reason and respect neighboring countries and their sovereignty.

The newspaper *ATH-THAWRAH*, organ of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, said that the war of attrition which the enemy and its allies wanted to unleash against Iraq has become an attrition of the Iranians and their resources.

ATH-THAWRAH emphasized Iraq's determination to continue to hit oil tankers or any other vessels that attempt to enter the Iraqi-declared war zone around Khark Island and the port of Bushehr.

ATH-THAWRAH reaffirmed Iraq's determination to deal punishing blows at military and economic targets within Iran. *ATH-THAWRAH* said: The destruction of the oil terminals on Khark Island is — and this is just one example — one such objective. The paper asserted that Iraq will carry out this objective and will use all its arsenal of arms, including weapons that have not been used so far, to deal blows everywhere in Iran that can be reached by Iraq.

ATH-THAWRAH concluded: What is now required on the Arab level is that a serious move to coordinate the resolution of the Fes summit conference and follow up with greater seriousness the work of the seven-member committee and adopt a unified Arab stand to end the war. *ATH-THAWRAH* added: All this should be preceded by giving the maximum support to Iraq to enable it to strengthen its capabilities so that it can achieve victory, a victory that will be the victory of the entire Arab nation.

Saddam Husayn Interview With Kuwaiti Paper

GF221130 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
20 May 84 pp 18, 19

[Interview with President Saddam Husayn by *AL-ANBA'* correspondent Ahmad Hamrush in Baghdad — no date given]

[Excerpts][Ahmad Hamrush] How do you see an end to the war?

[Saddam Husayn] On our part, an end to the war is linked to the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions and the desire for peace. We are not aggressors. The decisive factor for changing the course of the war remains on the battlefield where it is necessary to defeat the enemy militarily. We are always ready to reach a peace agreement based on respect for the national independence and noninterference in domestic affairs, but we do not depend on this direction only. There is no issue which we concentrate on while neglecting the other. The elements of life are not based only on the military side, but also on the economic, political, cultural, and other sides. Thus we deal with all those elements with a joint importance. There is no issue which is neglected or postponed without consideration. We are resuming the construction and the development plan despite the 44 months of war.

[Hamrush] Is Iran playing a solitary role in this war and is not linked to a joint plan with countries which have interests in striking Iraq?

[Husayn] We do not have illusions that the war plan, its resumption and the rejection of all the attempts at peace indirectly reflect on a number of countries. The United States wants to keep Iraq from excercising its national independence and away from the Soviet Union and believes that Iran will definitely turn to it because of its armaments and previous relations. Israel became concerned about the destruction of the eastern front after it signed an agreement with Egypt, and it does not like military, industrial, or cultural progress in an Arab state; this is why the Tammuz nuclear reactors were hit. Iran is fighting with Western weapons which are supplied by Israel or countries which benefit from Iraq not remaining a strong and pan-Arab country.

[Hamrush] It is known that the Iraqi people will not give those who wish to strike at Iraq's national independence or its intrinsic strength an opportunity. But, can the United States succeed in harming Iraqi-Soviet relations or in cooling them?

[Husayn] Our relations with the Soviet Union have currently reached an excellent state and we receive arms support from them, for which we can only be grateful. Our friendship with the Soviet Union is affirmed through the joint struggle against imperialism and for national liberation; our relations are currently at their best.

[Hamrush] Why is Iraq bearing the battle alone, and will this be for very long?

[Husayn] We will not put an Arab stance in our military or economic calculations until it is implemented. We cannot base a plan on promises. The arms or the forces should arrive in Iraqi territory so that we can include them in our plan. We do not include the financial aid in our plan until after the money reaches the central bank. The Arab countries' stance in general is encouraging, excluding Libya and Syria which provide political and military support to Iran. The Gulf countries feel the importance of ending the war and there are follow-up committees coordinated by Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz which meet once every month.

[Hamrush] But what about Iraq's and Egypt's stance? Is there anything new?

[Husayn] When we speak about relations between Cairo and Baghdad we see the issue from a pan-Arab view. We are not talking about being supported by a division only and this is not out of pride or a call to return a favor to us.

The Iraqi Army has participated in all the Arab battles, but we do not ask Egypt now for what the circumstances are not ready for.

We look forward and without doubt to Egypt's return to the pan-Arab arena, to an Egypt which is capable of rejecting, is supported by the people and interacts on pan-Arab level. Egypt will never be absent from Arab decisions or pan-Arab security.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,472 - 21 May

JN211632 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Communique No 1,472 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 21 May 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Our valiant Armed Forces are continuing their activities in the operational sectors against the aggressor Iranian forces. The results for yesterday evening and today are as follows:

1. A force from our brave forward units carried out a successful raid against the enemy positions opposite our positions in the Maysan sector. It clashed with the enemy, using all types of weapons, and managed to kill five troops and destroy several enemy positions.

2. One of our forward units opened artillery fire on several enemy positions and artillery emplacements in the operational area east of Basra, destroying two infantry positions and killing or wounding their occupants, and setting other enemy positions afire.

3. One of our forward units pounded the enemy positions opposite our positions in the central sector with artillery, destroying one infantry position and one hardware stockpile.

4. One was killed in the northern sector of the battlefield.

5. Today, the clique of evil and crime ruling Iran shelled Basra and its environs with heavy artillery, damaging one mosque and two houses.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 21 May 1984

Foreign Ministry on Iranian Conduct at UN

JN201422 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1100 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] In a press statement issued today, the Foreign Ministry has stressed that Iran's continued membership and strange conduct in the [UN] disarmament committee is considered an insult to the principles and objectives of the committee.

The ministry expressed its indignation that the disarmament committee conference succumbed to a previously unprecedented misuse by one member — the representative of the Iranian regime — of the conference meetings in April 1984, as a rostrum for directing a series of slanders at Iraq.

The statement added that the sad fact is that the Iranian regime's representative, by misusing the consensus rule, has been able to prevent Iraq, who is not a member of the committee, from practicing its natural right to expose these Iranian slanders. The committee allowed the Iranian regime's representative to use the veto and impose it, in a UN organ and within the framework of a body whose secretary general is considered a representative of the UN secretary general, on a procedural matter. The representative of the Iranian regime alone was able to negate the agreement of the remainder of the committee's members to invite Iraq to make a speech enabling it to practice its right to reply, which is a right recognized and preserved by all UN bodies and organizations. The ministry's statement stressed that this is a blatant example of one-member despotism. It is well known that even the veto used in the UN Security Council does not apply to matters of procedure, concerning inviting a member country to deliver a speech at the council.

In its statement, the Foreign Ministry said that what is more worrying, is that Iran, which has broken all records in violating the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, and which has not only ignored the UN Security Council resolutions, but has gone over the limit in misusing and insulting the Council, is allowed to enjoy the membership of an important body such as the Disarmament Committee, and to obstruct the right of other countries to deliver speeches in front of the committee in the context of practicing their right to reply. The statement called on all member countries to take suitable measures in the next session of the UN General Assembly to rectify this unacceptable situation.

Ramadan Visits Maysan Ba'th Party Command 18 May

JN181648 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, this morning visited the Ba'th Party Maysan branch command. During his meeting with the comrade secretary and members of the branch command, with Maysan Governor Karim Hasan Rida attending, Ramadan stressed the need to continue action in order to deepen the positive relations between government workers and the citizens and to render the best services to them. He noted the importance of popular surveillance, which is one of the main guarantees to prevent exploitation from taking place.

Ramadan said that peace is the only solution to halt the aggressive war that the spiteful Iranian regime has imposed on struggling Iraq. He added: Our valiant Armed Forces, hero people's army fighters, and great Iraqi people will inflict the heaviest losses on the greedy aggressors if they try to wage a treacherous aggression against our international border once again. Ramadan said that the Iraqi siege of Iranian ports has proved effective in paralyzing the enemy's economic activities. He added that Iran's oil exports have dropped greatly.

Jordanian Transportation Delegation Holds Talks

JN171049 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 0940 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Amman, 17 May (PETRA) — Transportation Minister Tahir Hikmat arrived in Baghdad yesterday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to hold talks with Iraqi Transport and Communications Minister 'Abd al-Jabbar al-Asadi on cooperation between both countries in the transportation sphere. During the visit, the Jordanian delegation will discuss the recommendations adopted by the technical committee in its previous meetings including the postponment of implementing the directives concerning the axial loads on Jordanian roads and the shipping freights between the Aqaba port and Baghdad.

Ramadan Receives Jordanian Minister

JN201239 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1135 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Jordanian Transport Minister Tahir Hikmat. During the meeting, Ramadan received a written message from Jordanian Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat dealing with bilateral relations between the two countries and ways of promoting them. Taha Yasin Ramadan asked the Jordanian transport minister to convey his greetings to 'Ubaydat expressing satisfaction with the progress of bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries and the strong desire to expand and develop these relations in all fields. The two sides also discussed ways of developing cooperation in the field of transport and other areas to benefit the two countries and the Arab nation.

Delegation Departs 20 May

JN201632 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1548 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — Jordan's Minister of Transportation Tahir Hikmat and his delegation left Baghdad for home today at the end of their visit to Iraq. In a statement to INA, the Jordanian minister said that he held talks with Iraqi officials on strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the field of transport. He also said that he signed minutes of the meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian land transport organization and approved its board of directors' report and general budget.

Oil Minister Departs for Jordan 20 May

JN201646 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1552 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi left Baghdad for Amman today on a visit to Jordan. In a statement to INA, the minister said that his visit to Jordan comes within the framework of the talks held in Baghdad recently by a Jordanian delegation led by Jordanian Trade Minister Jawad al-'Anani on increasing the scope of cooperation and coordination in the fields of trade and industry, including oil and oil byproducts.

Dailies Comment on Recent Gulf Developments

Arab Stand Called For

JN181545 Baghdad INA in English 1320 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, May 18, INA — An Iraqi leading daily called today for a unified and cohesive Arab stand to safeguard Arab legitimate rights and Arab security in the face of the aggressive and expansionist Iranian regime.

In a major commentary here today, *ATH-THAWRAH*, the mouthpiece of the Arab Ba'th Socialist Party called for a mobilization of Arab energies in confronting the Iranian aggression and the aborting of its schemes against the Arab nation and its basic interests.

"What is taking place in the Arab Gulf region these days", the paper said "is a further affirmation of Iraq's vision since the very outset of the Iranian aggression, that the Iranian regime is not only intending to commit aggression against Iraq alone but against the entire Arab homeland and the Gulf region in particular."

Another daily *AL-JUMHURIYAH* said that Iranian air attacks on Arab vessels in the Gulf had demonstrated the impotency of the Iranian regime in its war of aggression against Iraq.

Decisive Measures Urged

JN191022 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* and *AL-JUMHURIYAH* say that no one has the right to blame Iraq for exercising its natural right to strike at any naval target in the military operations zone when this target is serving the sources of Iranian aggression and either directly or indirectly contributing to prolonging the aggression. In their editorials today, the two papers stress that Iraq will continue to deal strong and deterring blows to the Iranian regime in the Arab Gulf as long as it continues to insist on its course of aggression against our people and our legitimate interests. This is because Iran is responsible for what is taking place, for exacerbating the situation, and for the dangers to which the region is being exposed.

ATH-THAWRAH says: The strangling siege that the Iraqi forces continue to impose on Iranian ports in the Arab Gulf draws its complete legitimacy from the aggressor Iranian regime's insistence on depriving Iraq of the right to benefit from its installations in this international waterway. This violates the international norms and laws that safeguard the legitimate interests of all countries in the region.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: From the premise of our natural right to defend our sovereignty and our legitimate national interests, the siege that we have imposed on Khark Island and the other Iranian ports is a just and completely legitimate decision, particularly since we have ascertained that the international community and the concerned international organizations are unable to implement resolution No 540 and the other international resolutions that call for halting the fighting and settling the dispute through peaceful means.

The paper says that the Iranian regime's reckless practices against the interests of the fraternal Arab countries in the Arab Gulf make the Arab League Council convening in Tunis today dutybound to firmly and seriously confront the Iranian regime's aggression, which seriously endangers not only the national security and interests of the countries in the region but also world peace and security.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: The Arab League must not simply issue more resolutions, which will merely remain ink on paper; it must seriously work to implement the resolutions that it will issue, and make them materialize. In this respect, the paper recalls the resolutions issued by the Fes summit, the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting in Baghdad last March, and the work of the seven-member committee stemming from this meeting.

As for *AL-JUMHURIYAH*, it stresses that through its aggression against Kuwaiti and Saudi oil tankers, the Iranian regime has proved once again that it is a regime of aggression which heeds no international norms and that it is ready to carry out aggression against the Arab Gulf countries, either with or without justification.

AL-JUMHURIYAH adds: The Iranian regime would not have dared to carry out such attacks had it not found circumstances which allowed it to flout UN Security Council resolutions and which facilitated its aggression against independent countries with no direct connection to the war it has ignited.

AL-JUMHURIYAH calls for a firm and vehement reply that will check this regime and compel it to respect the sovereignty of the countries in the region, end the war, and resort to peace.

Foreign Ministers Meeting Noted

JN210913 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0550 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA) — *ATH-THAWRAH* today says that the Arab Foreign Ministers Emergency Conference resolutions are not commensurate with the dangers engulfing the Arab Gulf region and the future eventualities, and do not fulfill the Arab masses aspirations.

ATH-THAWRAH, organ of the Ba'th Party, adds: The conference's denunciation of the Iranian Air Force raids against Kuwait and Saudi oil tankers has no important meaning for Iran which previously paid no attention to such denunciations.

ATH-THAWRAH wonders: Is it possible that Iran would now respond to the conference's call to refrain from committing aggression against maritime shipping in the Arab Gulf after it paid no heed to hundreds of international and regional calls and resolutions calling on it to end its war of aggression against Iraq?

ATH-THAWRAH says that the international community and organizations have blatantly failed in having the aggressor Iranian regime abide by any stand or resolution. The paper adds that Iran continues its trend of aggression against Iraq and the Arab Gulf countries and openly insists on pursuing the war and escalating it whithin the sight and hearing of the international community and the UN Security Council.

ATH-THAWRAH wonders: What have the international community and the UN Security Council done to stop the war other than issue futile calls and wishes, which proved that they were unable to end the war and settle the dispute through peaceful means? The paper stresses that the dependence on one's own strength and on Arab capabilities and potential will be the best means for confronting the Iranian aggression. Concluding, the paper calls for a firm and deterring Arab stand toward the Iranian rulers and those who provide them with weapons and funds in order to check them and make them understand that they will not be able to pursue and escalate their war of aggression against the Arab nation.

More Iranian Refugees Depart for Sweden

JN191158 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1140 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 19 May (INA) — A new group of Iranian refugees left for Sweden yesterday evening. A Foreign Ministry spokesman told INA today that the arrangements for the Iranian refugees' departure were made in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad. The spokesman added that this measure and the facilities Iraq offers to Iranian refugees once again express Iraq's respect for the Iranian people, who are afflicted by the Khomeyniite regime. The spokesman stressed that Iraq will remain committed to its obligations, which are based on Iraq's principles and genuine values.

Friendship Protocol Signed With PRC 20 May

JN201044 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0833 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Baghdad, 20 May (INA) — The Iraqi Union of Societies for Friendship with People's and the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, today signed a protocol of cooperation for strengthening friendship and cooperation between them. The protocol stresses furthering cooperation between the two organizations and includes the exchange of visits by delegations from both countries, holding exhibitions,and exchanging publications and lectures.

Delhi ISI on Results of Commodity Exchange Talks

BK181149 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Service in English 0834 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] India and Iraq have identified new commodities for exchange between the two countries. The meeting of the Indo-Iraq Joint Commission, which ended in Baghdad in the 17th of May, reviewed bilateral trade, which is to the tune of 8,000 million rupees per annum. The possibilities to export Indian buses, trucks, tractor components, engineering goods, and agricultural implements to Iraq were discussed. The Iraqi side wanted trained manpower from India and facilities for training their technical personnel in India. The Indian delegation to the joint commission was led by Energy Minister Shiv Shankar. Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi headed his country's delegation. Shiv Shankar called on several Iraqi leaders and expressed India's concern over the continuing war between Iran and Iraq. He said Mrs Gandhi, as chairperson of the Nonaligned Movement, is doing everything possible to bring an end to the conflict.

King's LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR Interview Cited

JN191358 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] In an interview published in Paris today by the French magazine *LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR*, His Majesty King Husayn stressed Jordan's firm position toward efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East. His majesty said: We call for a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in exchange for comprehensive peace. We also strongly believe that Israeli settlements in occupied Arab territories are illegal, and that every new settlement is an additional obstacle to peace in the region. His majesty added that the Likud Party claims that occupied Arab territory belongs to Israel. With such attitudes, his majesty asked, how can there be talk of peaceful negotiations in the Middle East?

His Majesty King Husayn said: Jordanians and Palestinians belong to one family, and are tied to one fate. we bear the same responsibilities because we face the same threats and challenges together. His majesty added: The basic matter is to reach a common formula in our relations with the Palestinians, a formula that would also guarantee the distinct identity of the Jordanians and Palestinians. His Majesty added: The Palestinians feel that they belong to a Palestinian entity. We are trying to help them to overcome their present pains, but we have no wish to impose ourselves on them. We have never had such an intention.

Answering a question on the U.S. position toward efforts for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, His Majesty King Husayn said: Let me make it clear; the comments I have made on the U.S. position were not directed against the U.S. President or the U.S. Government. They were directed against the effects of the pressures that the Israeli and Jewish-American lobbies have on U.S. policy. The king added: There is discussion on this point. If this problem is not resolved, it will be at the expense of the U.S. Government's credibility and its ability to solve one of the most complicated conflicts in the present era. He Majesty King husayn said: We told our American friends with complete clarity that we could not consider them as mediators in the Middle East conflict because they are Israel's allies. Israel could not have implemented its settlements policy in occupied Arab territories without U.S. assistance.

Answering a question on the Soviet Union's role in a Middle East peace settlement, His Majesty King Husayn said: There are agreements between Israel and the United States, and there is an alliance between Syria and the Soviet Union. Thus, each of the two superpowers supports one of the conflicting sides in the Middle East, which lives in a very tense situation. I hope the two superpowers and all other concerned sides will participate in the peace march in our region. On Syria's role in the peace efforts, His Majesty King Husayn said: Syria is concerned about the Middle East crisis, and it has the right to participate in seeking peace. A part of Syrian territory in the Golan heights is under Israeli occupation. In his interview with the French magazine *LE NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR*, His Majesty King Husayn said: Europe can play an important role in finding a peaceful settlement for the Middle East crisis. His majesty explained that Europe's 1980 Venice declaration was a very positive step. He said that Europe is more aware of our history than the United States, and that the European countries could exert important pressures on the United States because of its positions on the Middle East.

AD-DUSTUR Reports New Middle East Peace Initiative

JN211116 Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 21 May 84 pp 1, 23

[Text] Washington — Well informed circles here have quoted political sources in Tel Aviv as saying that the United States and a number of West European countries; foremost of which is Austria, are currently preparing a new Middle East peace initiative. These circles added that the private team working on this initiative have made slight amendments to some of the initiative's clauses after obtaining the Israeli central circles' approval. The same circles said that the United States and Austria, who are the two countries most involved with this initiative, have blessed it and the EEC countries have supported it. These circles believe that this new initiative will be announced officially either at the end of July or in early August 1984, when the Knesset elections will be over and the new Israeli government formed. The same circles said that the new initiative provides for internationalizing Jerusalem, keeping the present status of the Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories but under Arab sovereignty, and withdrawing Israeli forces to the 1967 border. The circles said that the Israeli Labor Party leaders have approved and blessed this initiative, while the present Israeli Government has refused to approve it before consulting with former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. The same circles added that Israeli Prime Minister Shamir stipulated for approving this initiative that Israeli military units remain in certain areas in the West Bank — the sources did not name these areas — and set up radar and early warning stations in some areas, particularly in the mountains of Hebron and Nabulus.

'Ubaydat Confers With Iraqi Oil Minister

JN211250 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Amman — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat received in his office this morning Iraqi Oil Minister Qasim Ahmad Taqi. During the meeting, they discussed developing bilateral economic cooperation, especially in the field of exchanging various commodities, including crude oil and oil byproducts. They also reviewed the main steps concerning the pipeline to be established across Jordanian territory. The meeting was attended by the minister of industry, trade, and tourism, Dr Jawad al-'Ananai and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Israeli Pipeline Report 'Strange, Tendentious'

JN211851 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A Jordanian official said in Amman that the information disseminated by sources close to the Israeli energy minister is both strange and tendentious. The Israeli sources had earlier said that Israel proposed to the U.S. Bechtel Company, which is in charge of laying an oil pipeline across Jordan to carry the Iraqi oil, that it extend the pipeline to the Israeli port of Ashqelon.

Karami Meets With Northern Coordination Committee

NC201917 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami this evening chaired a meeting in Tripoli of the Northern Coordination Committee during which the current situation in the north and the general situation in Lebanon were reviewed. After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami made the following statement:

[Begin recording] I wanted to meet with my brothers in the coordination committee to brief them on the developments that have taken place since the formation of the government. I also wanted to discuss the phases we went through in Beirut so that they will be aware of the events at the political and security levels and of the developments we expect — developments which must eventually lead to the achievement of our hopes and aspirations regarding liberation, security, and reforms. The government is determined to assume its responsibilities, to implement the task it has taken upon itself, and to achieve the Lebanese people's aspirations for a homeland in which love and peace will prevail and which will be an embodiment of everyone's will to coexist, to build, and to reconstruct.

Meanwhile, we feel the burdens placed on our shoulders and the enormous legacy we must bear so that we may deal with all matters concerning the citizen in the domain of services, or which ease their distress regarding displaced and kidnapped persons, those who are afraid, and those who are unemployed. I am reassured about the situation in the city of Tripoli and the north — a situation that points to the genuine awareness of this noble people. The coordination committee is carrying out its duty in order to deal with all the problems that occur. This reassures us about the committee's participation with us in our work to enable us to dedicate our efforts to carry out our great national duty.

Some irregularities have attracted my attention, especially those taking place at the port. I have received reports that there is cooperation between those inside and outside the port to gain illegal profits and that they are tampering with the role of this port which we regard as the economic lung of the area. Therefore, I have asked the coordination committee to pay serious attention to this matter which we cannot accept. On my part, as a member of the government, I will deal with matters related to the employees because we cannot possibly keep silent about such a painful situation. Thank you. [end recording]

Meets Franjiyah, Returns to Beirut

NC210854 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami returned a short while ago to the Government House by helicopter from Zgharta where he met for an hour with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. Karami is expected to go to Mansur Palace later today to meet with Speaker Kamil al-As'ad to agree on a date for a parliamentary session at which the government will ask for a vote of confidence.

Karami Fails To Persuade Franjiyah on Ar-Rasi

NC211150 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Prior to returning to Beirut from the north, Prime Minister Karami met for 30 minutes with former President Sulayman Franjiyah. It was reported that Franjiyah refused to allow the meeting to be covered by the television service. Karami had said that the visit was to exchange views on current developments and added: All meetings at the present time are held in the interest of the people and for the sake of Lebanon's salvation. It was learned that Karami failed in his attempt to persuade Franjiyah that Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi should join the government before the Cabinet appears before the Chamber of Deputies during the vote of confidence.

Further on Franjiyah-Karami Meeting

NC211503 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] [Former] President Sulayman Franjiyah today received in his palace in Zgharta Prime Minister Rashid Karami. Franjiyah held a meeting with Karami that was attended by Dr 'Abdallah ar-Rasi and Robert Franjiyah. Furthermore, President Franjiyah received the two Bsharri deputies, Shaykh Habib Kayruz and Dr Dubran Tawq, and then met with them in the presence of Former Deputy Shaykh Qabalan 'Isa al-Khuri.

After the meeting, Prime Minister Karami said: This visit was made to exchange views with His Excellency President Franjiyah on the current developments. It is useful for us always to listen to sound viewpoints born of experience. This is because we all meet in this people's interest and for the sake of saving Lebanon. Following his meeting with President Franjiyah, Deputy Jubran Tawq made the following statement:

[Begin recording] In fact, when he spoke of the parliamentary consultations, naturally, he put us in the general picture and in the [words indistinct] the course of events. Our visits to President Franjiyah continue, naturally, because we always need to consult with him on matters that, as you know, occur from day to day. We saw him today concerning matters connected with the area, particularly the roadblock, or rather the roadblocks, that are being placed in the Al-Arz-'Aynata area. We are interested in these matters, because they have bad results or repercussions. We saw him concerning these affairs particularly. Of course, we spoke of the general situation with President Franjiyah. In other words, we [words indistinct] the salvation government, and in other words, naturally, salvation is everybody's goal — and no one is more creditable than President Franjiyah in this regard.

[Unidentified reporter] After the Cabinet [policy] statement is approved, will you participate in the confidence vote session?

[Deputy Tawq] Definitely. We will fully discharge our parliamentary duty. In fact, naturally, in light of the Cabinet statement, we will take a stance. Ultimately, we will refer back to the Maronite deputies grouping — and we have definitely made (?statements) to this effect. We would like to see something taking place before we take a final stance. If the security situation continues to be shaky, I believe we will adopt a negative attitude. However, if we see — through facts — that there is tangible progress, it is possible for us to meet within the grouping and take an appropriate stance.

[Reporter] Dr Jubran, in light of today's meeting with his excellency the president and with His Excellency Prime Minister Karami, is it possible to say that the obstacles that stood in the way of the government's (?formation) have been overcome?

[Deputy Tawq] There are obstacles at this time. Naturally, with regard to the government, ever since its formation and to this time, there have been numerous obstacles. Certainly, it is possible that his excellency the president and his excellency the prime minister are doing their utmost to eliminate these obstacles. Naturally, the stance of Franjiyah is a basic one in this matter. Of course, today we (?considered) this subject with him. This thing — that took place between His Excellency President Franjiyah and His Excellency Prime Minister Rashid Karami — belongs to both of them. They might have (?discussed] it, we [recording abruptly breaks off]

Cabinet To Meet 'Regularly' on Wednesdays

NC211340 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami stated that he contacted Kamil al-As'ad, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, and told him that the government is prepared to appear before the Chamber of Deputies to deliver its policy statement as of Thursday. He added that the Cabinet will be meeting regularly on Wednesdays.

Chamber of Deputies Preparing for Confidence Vote

NC211720 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Circles of the Chamber of Deputies were today busy preparing for the session the chamber is to hold for its confidence vote in the new government. Chamber Speaker Kamil al-As'ad met with the chamber office members. The meeting was attended by Chamber Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadil. The chamber speaker gave his directives on the security measures that should be taken around Mansur Palace [the headquarters of the Chamber of Deputies] and the roads leading to it.

Upon leaving Mansur Palace, the chamber speaker said that security measures will be taken around and inside the chamber during the vote of confidence session. He added: We discussed the details of these measures today. These measures will be followed up tomorrow with Munir Abu Fadil and some of the chamber's employees as well as with representatives of the Army and the Internal Security and public security forces. Once the implementation of these measures is assured, a date for the chamber's session will be set.

Asked if he expects the session to be held this week, Speaker al-As'ad said: As soon as we have the answer that the security arrangements and measures are ensured and are being implemented, we will set a date for the session.

Asked about Prime Minister Karami's contact with him, Speaker al-As'ad said: Prime Minister Karami contacted me according to procedure and expressed the government's readiness to appear before the chamber. My reply was that when the security measures have been completed and can be implemented in practice by all those concerned — the Army, the Internal Security and public security forces — we will convene the chamber session for a vote of confidence.

Asked if there are parliamentary consultations to unify the parliamentary stand on the question of confidence in the government, he said: I do not believe that there are consultations with the deputies as a whole. Each parliamentary bloc has a position that stems from its convictions and does not commit anybody to this stand.

Karami Determined To Continue Salvation Process

NC200659 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami will return Monday to Beirut from the north to begin his contacts for setting a date for a parliamentary session at which the government of national unity will ask for a vote of confidence.

Those close to the prime minister said that he is very satisfied with the results of yesterday's Cabinet session at which it approved the policy statement that Prime Minister Karami has described as a new national charter.

Those privy to the prime minister's views said that the government is moving from phase to phase along the road to salvation despite the rumors disseminated on every occasion to weaken the confidence in the government in anticipation of its departure. Those informed added that there is a firm determination to follow up the salvation process because it is the only available alternative. They added that efforts are continuing for subsequent steps in the salvation process with wisdom, patience, and determination to consolidate peace and stability in the country.

Karami Appeals for Unity of Ranks, End to Massacres

NC181827 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Prime Minister Rashid Karami today made a speech on the anniversary of the establishment of the home for old people in which he demanded a halt to the massacres and shelling. He said: Let hands be extended to realize national unity and foil the criminal plot. Karami said:

[Begin recording] On the basis of law and religion, we demand an end to these massacres in which our sons and relatives are being killed with our own hands. Yesterday I said that anyone who opens fire from West Beirut on East Beirut is actually opening fire on West Beirut as well, and vice versa. Thus we ourselves are killing ourselves and our people with our own hands. Is this the intention? No, God forbid. Therefore, let us extend our hands to each other to realize our national unity, strengthen our ranks, and march together to save ourselves from a criminal plot in which the enemies of our nation, people, and civilization, who covet our land and heritage, are participating. [end recording]

Sham'un Sets Conditions for Remaining in Government

NC181644 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 May 84

[Text][Former] President Camille Sham'un has asserted that the basis upon which the government will be able to implement any program is to restore security to the citizens and to re-open the crossing points, ports, and airport. Sham'un said that this cannot take place unless the cease-fire is complete, comprehensive, and absolute. He added that he is adhering to these conditions which are, in fact, the conditions for his continued presence in the government.

Sham'un: Defense Council Needed To Solve Army Issue

NC210807 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Camille Sham'un, minister of finance, housing, and cooperatives, last night said that the extraordinary powers requested by the government in its policy statement are only for amending the legislative decrees. Commenting on the question of the Army, Sham'un said: We must work for a well-prepared and equipped Army. The Army cannot wait a year until we have a new formula for Lebanon, and the establishment of a Higher Defense Council is necessary to follow up the Army question.

Answering a question, Sham'un said: I do not believe that the government will encounter difficulties in parliament as long as the government's goal is national unity.

Independent Maronites Renew Opposition to Government

NC181714 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The independent Maronite deputies bloc today again voiced its opposition to the government if it does not deal with the continuing security deterioriation; the re-opening of the crossing points between Beirut's two sectors; withdrawal of the gunmen; and the opening of the [public] utilities.

The bloc also called for government action to halt the Army's disintegration and to solve the problem of the private and official media. A statement issued by the bloc said it is declaring as of this moment its commitment to the principle of separation of powers and that it will oppose any demand to reduce the legislative authority's jurisdiction through the government's demand for extraordinary powers to enact laws. The bloc also announced that its principal stand to the government will be set in light of the government's policy statement.

Reportage on Security Situation in Beirut Areas

Lebanese Forces 'Retaliate'

NC181821 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1803 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Shelling continues to be concentrated on the areas of Al-Hadath, Al-Fayyadiyah, Al-Hazimiyah, Ad-Dikwanah, (Snaf), Jisr al-Basha, and Sinn al-Fil. A number of people have been wounded, and some fires have broken out, particularly in the Ad-Dikwanah area. The Fifth Branch of the Lebanese Forces has issued the following statement: The residential areas in the eastern sector [of Beirut] have been coming under concentrated shelling since 1800 today. On the basis of a decision to retaliate made by the Lebanese Forces Command, our forces retaliated by shelling the agressive artillery positions in West Beirut.

15 Casualties in Barracks Shelling

NC182023 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1958 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] During tonight's random shelling, 10 shells fell on the Henry Shihab barracks, killing and wounding several soldiers from the 6th Brigade. Shells also fell on Corniche al-Mazra'ah. Security sources say that more than 15 persons were killed or wounded as a result of the shelling which reached the residential quarters in West Beirut and the southern suburb. A state of caution prevails in the areas of fighting. Intermittent shellfire can be heard. The citizens are asked to be careful. The Al-Awza'i area came under random shelling. The Al-Busalli gas bottling plant was hit by a shell that set it on fire. Firemen and civil defense teams are rushing to the scene to contain and extinguish the fire. It was learned a short while ago that the intensity of the clashes has abated.

Phalangist Officials Killed, Wounded

NC191202 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Press reports say that the official in charge of the Phalange Party branch in Ad-Dawwar near Bikfayya was killed under vague circumstances and that tension heightened between Phalange Party members in the area and a factional army post. Clashes broke out between the two sides, during which the deputy chief of the Phalangists' Ad-Dawwar branch was killed. The official in charge of the Phalangist branch in Ar-Rumayl, who is from the Ghannam family, was seriously wounded last Thursday. He is presently being treated at the Greek Orthodox Hospital.

Limited Clashes in Suburb

NC211912 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Some explosions were heard this evening. Security sources said the explosions were the result of limited clashes that took place on the contact lines in Sodeco, Primo, Al-Barjawi, and Ra's an-Nab' in Beirut and on the Old Sidon Road and Ash-Shiyah in Beirut's southern suburb. It was learned a short while ago that some sporadic explosions can still be heard and that the Security Arrangements Committee is dealing with the situation.

Amal Accused of Deviating From 'Shi'ite Principles'

NC181709 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Meetings and contacts are continuing between Amal Movement officials and leaders of the Jundallah and the Hezbollah party within the framework of the struggle among the various organizations in West Beirut. The latter are accusing Amal of deviating from the revolutionary Islamic Shi'ite principles which are in accordance with the teachings of Khomeyni. The Amal Movement has received a number of complaints from the Shi'ites about attacks and thefts in the southern suburb and in some western areas. Some Palestinian officials loyal to 'Arafat and the Communist Action Organization continue to detain some Shi'ites on the pretext that the Amal Movement is detaining some communists.

Al-Huss at Tunis Conference Calls for Arab Support

NC200806 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] In his speech at the closing session of the Arab Foreign Ministers Conference in Tunis, the head of the Lebanese delegation Dr Salim al-Huss expressed the fear that a day will come when the number of fateful questions confronting the Arab world will equal the number of Arab states. Al-Huss said the most serious situation currently facing the Arab world is that the Lebanese feels he is alone in his struggle, a feeling shared by the Palestinian and the citizen of the Gulf in their struggles. Al-Huss called for Arab economic and financial support for Lebanon and for its support of the Lebanese steadfastness in those areas under occupation.

Stops Over in Damascus

NC210857 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0830 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Dr Salim al-Huss, minister of labor and national education, today returned to Beirut from Tunis via Damascus after heading the Lebanese delegation to the Arab Foreign Ministers' Conference. While in Damascus, Al-Huss had talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar' and a telephone contact with Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam with whom he discussed the latest developments in Lebanon.

Makes Statement on Return

NC211813 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Upon his return from Tunis today, Minister al-Huss spoke about the results of the Arab foreign ministers conference. He said that during the conference, he called for an Arab summit this year to discuss the extremely important Arab issues. He said: Since the Arab atmosphere is marred by certain differences, we believe these differences must not impede the convening of a summit. On the contrary, these differences must speed up the convening of a summit. He further said that Lebanon is directly concerned with this issue and is interested in convening the summit on time.

Dr al-Huss said: It is known that ministerial committees were formed in the past to prepare for a summit conference. At an earlier phase, the Lebanese issue was listed as one of the tasks assigned to the committee charged with joint Arab action. The issue was listed under the heading: The damage done to Lebanon as a result of the Israeli invasion. Al-Huss added: We felt that the way the issue was proposed was absolutely unsuitable and unsatisfactory. Accordingly, we had to work to amend it so that the issue that would be proposed to the Arab summit would assume a formula and a level that meet Lebanon's real needs at this stage. We held certain contacts regarding this issue and submitted a memorandum to the conference in which we outlined that Lebanon's needs were not confined to the damage it sustained as a result of the Israeli invasion. This is because there is an urgent need to support the steadfastness of the people of southern Lebanon, the western Al-Biqa', and Iqlim al-Kharrub. This has nothing to do with the damage resulting from the Israeli invasion.

Al-Huss further said: The damage in Lebanon since 1975 includes damage from Israeli military operations inside Lebanese territory. There is also damage that preceded the invasion and followed the Israeli withdrawal from certain areas. There has also been damage caused by other acts of violence in other areas, where there has been no direct Israeli invasion. Israel helped create, incite, and fan the sedition that has been tearing Lebanon apart since 1975. Concluding his statement, Al-Huss said: For all these reasons, we asked that the Lebanese issue proposed for the agenda of the Arab summit conference be changed from merely discussing the damage done to Lebanon as a result of the Israeli invasion to the following formula: supporting Lebanon financially and economically to strengthen the steadfastness of the Lebanese people in the territory under Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon, the western Al-Biqa', and Iqlim al-Kharrub on the one hand; and also helping Lebanon to reconstruct vital utilities and areas damaged in the events and in the Israeli invasion.

Explosive Defused at American University

NC211458 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] At 1600 today, the security officer of the American University reported that a fire broke out in the university's library. He said a security force examined the site of the fire and discovered that a fuse on an explosive charge had caused the fire. A military expert removed the fuse from the explosive charge minutes before it was due to explode. No additional information is available about the size of the charge.

Various Circles Concerned Over Saudi Import Ban

NC210706 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Various circles have shown much interest in the Saudi decision not to import agricultural produce from southern Lebanon. These circles are contemplating the significance of this decision which the Saudi authorities issued a few days ago. The decision, which bans the importation of products of any kind originating in southern Lebanon, reopens the file on the economic relations between the two countries.

Nabih Birri, minister of state for southern Lebanon and reconstruction, wonders how it is possible for Saudi Arabia to import produce from the occupied West Bank and not from occupied southern Lebanon.

A responsible source in the Saudi Trade Ministry yesterday confirmed the ban on the importation of goods and agricultural produce from southern Lebanon. The source however did not clarify the reasons that prompted the Kingdom to take this measure, which it put into effect on 18 May. Observers do not rule out the possibility that the other Gulf states will take similar measures on the pretext that Israeli products may infiltrate into their countries.

We conclude by pointing out that the Saudi Embassy in Lebanon has been closed for some time. Nationalist circles have demanded a solution to the import ban, since this is a very important issue.

Economy Minister Comments

NC211653 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] The Foreign Ministry was today busy dealing with the Saudi decision not to import produce from Southern Lebanon. Working on instructions from Prime Minister Rashid Karami, the Foreign Ministry cabled the Lebanese ambassador in Jidda and furnished him with the necessary instructions and directives.

Ministry sources expect that Sami Marun [chairman of the foreign economic relations council at the Foreign Ministry] will leave for the Saudi Kingdom within the next 2 days to handle the issue. In this regard, Victor Qasir, minister of economy, trade, industry, and oil, focused his attention on handling the Saudi decision. He contacted the prime minister following the latter's return from the north to brief him on the position of economic organizations and functionaries regarding the decision.

Minister Qasir, commenting on the Saudi decision, said that he has not yet been officially informed of the decision. He added: I would like to see the details. We believe that this decision is extremely serious on both the economic and national levels in view of our excellent and distinguished relations with the Saudi Kingdom, which has always strongly supported Lebanon. Minister Qasir added: We are confident that his majesty the king and the Saudi officials will support Lebanon at this stage to help it ride out its ordeal.

Soviet Advisers Supervise Syrian Fortifications

NC211626 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Syrian military movements were sighted in the Al-Biqa' today between the Al-Ghaydah plain and Barr Ilyas, east of the Darzaynun-Riyaq Road. Syrian bulldozers were seen on the Shtawrah-Al-Masna' Road preparing positions for antiaircraft guns. Security reports today said Soviet advisers entered the Turbul area in the past 24 hours, where they supervised the establishment of fortifications under strict Syrian security measures.

Syrians Reportedly Rotating Troops in Al-Biqa'

NC220935 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] One of our correspondents reports from the Al-Biqa' that the Syrian forces are making large-scale moves in the northern Al-Biqa' area. It is said that these moves are part of a rotation process. The correspondent says the Israeli forces have recently set up operations rooms in the Jubb Jannin and Kifrayya areas.

VOL on Syrian-Hezbollah Clash in Ba'labakk

NC190740 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Fierce clashes ensued in Ba'labakk last night between Hezbollah gunmen and the Syrian forces. According to eyewitness accounts, during a rally in the town, Hezbollah demonstrators tore up pictures of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and raised slogans denouncing Syria. The demonstrators also called for the downfall of Prime Minister Rashid Karami's government. This developed into clashed with the Syrian forces, which lasted until early today. One Syrian soldier was wounded. The Syrian forces are now besieging the area of the clashes.

Junblatti, Amal Gunmen Plan Action Against Hezbollah

NC191157 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] We have received information saying that Junblatt's gunmen, in coordination with the Amal Movement, are preparing to carry out a military operation against the offices of the Hezbollah Party and the Khomeyniites in West Beirut. The impending operation aims to curb the excesses being committed by the Hezbollah gunmen, who recently brought weapons from Ba'labakk and deployed them on the Al-Mu'allim-Saqiy Al-Hadath-Al-'Amrusiyah line.

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Syrian Intellince Agents Operate in West Beirut

NC191141 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] We have learned from security sources that Major Abu Muti', a senior Syrian intelligence officer, and 35 intelligence agents arrived in West Beirut. They set up their headquarters in the Al-Hamra' area. A number of the Syrian intelligence agents have been spotted posing as clothing merchants in West Beirut.

Attacks on Israeli Patrols; Israelis Redeploy

NC210652 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] National resistance fighters in the south have continued their attacks on Israeli enemy forces. At noon yesterday a hand grenade was thrown at an Israeli patrol comprised of a jeep and two trucks as it was passing through Dalla'ah Street, which branches from Fu'ad Shihab Boulevard in Sidon. The Israeli soldiers responded by opening random fire in all directions killing one civilian and wounding approximately 15 others. The Israeli forces sealed off the area and launched a wide-scale search campaign and arrested a number of citizens.

As part of their daily terrorist actions, Israeli mechanized and foot patrols yesterday roamed Sidon's quarters and opened fire on vehicles parked on both sides of the main street in an attempt to terrorize the citizens. They damaged several vehicles and caused confusion in the city. In An-Nabatiyah, the Israeli forces stepped up their security measures, establishing permanent and mobile roadblocks and deploying mechanized and foot patrols in most streets in the area.

In Tyre an Israeli patrol was ambushed near Dayr Kifa at noon yesterday. Helicopters were reportedly observed evacuating Israeli casualties. The Israeli forces consequently closed the Ash-Shihabiyah-Dayr Kifa Road and carried out searches with the help of reinforcements. On the Ash-Shihabiyah-Kafr Dunin Road, a landmine exploded when an Israeli patrol was passing in the area, but there were no casualties. The Israeli forces then closed the road and commenced a search operation. A security report said that an Israeli patrol comprised of five military vehicles was ambushed on the Ar-Rashidiyah-Batulayh Road. Patrol members returned the fire of the attackers and searched the area with the help of military helicopters.

Yesterday the occupation forces began to implement a redeployment plan of its units in the eastern sector of southern Lebanon after handing over most of its roadblocks in the area to the Lahhad militias. Security sources said that the purpose of the Israeli plan is to reduce the possibility of attacks on Israeli forces by the national resistance front and to ensure security over the main supply routes. The Israeli plan calls for handing over the roadblocks to the Lahhad militias and for establishing observation posts on the hills overlooking the main roads from Al-'Urqub to Kafr Milki.

Israeli tanks have carried out maneuvers with live ammunition in the Al-Muhaydithah-Kafr Dis area in which field artillery was also used. According to security sources, an Israeli force assisted by Lahhad militias surrounded the village of Mashgharah, raided some houses, and detained about 20 people. They also set up several checkpoints in the village.

VOAL Reports Israeli Casualties in South

NC211024 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0930 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Several Zionist enemy soldiers were killed or wounded at midnight when an Israeli military convoy was attacked with rockets and machine gun fire on the Sidon-Maghdushah Road. The Lebanese National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for the operation and confirmed that the commander of the convoy, who is a high-ranking officer, was wounded while riding in a military jeep that was destroyed during the attack. Another enemy vehicle was also put out of action.

Israelis Increase Patrols, Roadblocks in Sidon

NC211048 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Lebanese national resistance fighters have carried out a new operation in the Mar Ilyas area east of Sidon against a Zionist enemy patrol. An explosive charge was detonated by remote control at approximately 1000 today when a Zionist patrol passed in the area. Subsequently several helicopters were seen landing in the Mar Ilyas area to pick up the casualties while other helicopters overflew the capital of the south. It was observed that the Zionist enemy has increased the patrols and roadblocks in the streets of Sidon and set up several mobile roadblocks, including one near Az-Za'tari Mosque, another on the sea boulevard, and a third in Al-Qannayah area, at which the identity of passersby is checked. This is the second operation in less than 12 hours.

4 Israelis Reportedly Killed in Attack on Convoy

NC220612 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 84

[Excerpt] A senior Israeli intelligence officer and three of his aides have been killed as a result of an operation carried out by national resistance fighters against an Israeli military convoy travelling on the Maghdushah-'Anqun Road on its way to carry out raids in the area. Eyewitnesses said that rockets fired by the resistance fighters hit the convoy, setting on fire a civilian vehicle in which the officer and his three aides were riding. Another military vehicle was also hit but the number of casualties is not yet known.

Lahhad Meets With Iqlim al-Kharrub Inhabitants

NC201709 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in English 1645 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] In the town of As-Salihiyah in the south, a meeting was held this afternoon between the commander of the southern army of Lebanon, Brigadier Antoine Lahhad, and the inhabitants of Iqlim al-Kharrub and the region of Jazzin. They discussed the situation of An-Na'imah and its inhabitants. The meeting was also attended by the commander of the Free Christian Grouping, Israeli officials, and Bishop Ignatyus Ra'd. The bishop called for continued efforts for the security and entire interest of the south. Brigadier Lahhad affirmed that the southern army of Lebanon was for all parties and working for the interest of Muslims and Christians alike, and for security and tranquility.

'Citizens' Return Under Discussion'

JN210750 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0500 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Staff Major General Antoine Lahhad, commander of the southern army of Lebanon, has affirmed that the southern army of Lebanon is for all the citizens of southern Lebanon and not for one particular party. This came during a tour he made yesterday during which he met with a number of citizens in Jazzin and An-Na'imah. He added that this army works for everybody's benefit in order to achieve calm and stability in the south.

He reiterated that the return of the An-Na'imah citizens to their township is currently under intensified discussion and that positive signs are currently appearing despite the presence of some negative signs. He said that the return to An-Na'imah and Ash-Shuf, and even to northern Lebanon, will take place with the cooperation of both the citizens in these areas and the Israelis.

Al-As'ad Views Israeli Minister Statement on South

NC191355 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Commenting on a statement by the Israeli energy minister on setting up an autonomous administration in south Lebanon, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Kamil al-As'ad said the Israeli energy minister's statement on self-independence for the south means transforming the south into another West Bank. Al-As'ad added that this exposes the Zionist plan which is to detach the south, and consequently to liquidate Lebanon in preparation for splitting up the entire Arab region on sectarian and racial bases. This is what we have pointed out to the Arabs and have always warned against.

Correction to Syrian Envoy-Franjiyah Meeting

The following correction pertains to the item subheaded "Further on Meeting" under the headline "Franjiyah Receives Message, Envoy of Al-Asad," published in the 21 May Middle East and Africa *DAILY REPORT*, page G 2, first paragraph, line four:

...by Dr Mustafa al-Haj 'Ali, director of the office of Syrian vice president ['Abd al-Halim Khaddam]. President Franjiyah and President... (correcting title and supplying editorial notation)

Membership in Jerusalem Committee Suspended

JN212041 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Damascus — The Foreign Ministry has sent the following memorandum to ICO Secretary General Habib Chatti:

The Foreign Ministry in the Syrian Arab Republic would like to inform you that the convocation of the international Jewish conference on the soil of the Kingdom of Morocco with the participation of an Israeli delegation constitutes a flagrant challenge to the sentiments of the Islamic peoples, whose sacred shrines are being exposed to the continuous violation of the usurping Zionist enemy; and a flagrant violation of the ICO principles and charters, of the aims for which the Jerusalem Committee was established, and of this committee's resolutions. This convocation holds in contempt the blood of the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the cause of the Arabs and the Muslims, the cause of Palestine and holy Jerusalem, including the fraternal Moroccan martyrs.

Accordingly, the Syrian Arab Republic, stemming from its commitment to the ICO principles and charters, and its desire to preserve the aims for which the Jerusalem Committee was established, finds that it impossible for it to continue its membership in the Jerusalem Committee under the chairmanship of King Hassan II. The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic has decided to suspend its membership in this committee and to desist from attending its meetings until the reasons which have led to this suspension are removed.

The Syrian Arab Republic appeals to the Islamic states that are members in the Jerusalem Committee to consider the Syrian stand and to follow the Syrian example.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry has asked the ICO secretary general to distribute this memorandum among the ICO member states.

TISHRIN Urges Arab Sanctions Against Morocco

JN191356 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) — The *TISHRIN* newspaper asserts that the Moroccan regime has broken Israel's international economic, political, and psycholgical isolation. Because of the international siege which is about to kill it, Israel is currently experiencing its worst military, economic, and political situation since it was established. The paper says that Israel is being consumed by its internal conflicts, and that its current military and economic weaknesses are unprecedented.

In today's editorial entitled "It Is Revenge," *TISHRIN* points out that following the fall of the 17 May agreement with Lebanon, Israel began to manifest all of the characteristics of the Third World countries in terms of backwardness and economic collapse in every filed. The political conflicts that are fermenting in the Zionist entity are about to destroy it.

TISHRIN says that the Moroccan regime has only succeeded in creating a state of shock among the Arab masses similar to the state which afflicted them in the wake of As-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem. The Arab masses optimistically and confidently embarked on a new phase of confrontation and steadfastness following the fall of the 17 May agreement. These masses have regarded this fall as a great step forward in the Arab-Israeli struggle. This renegade [King Hassan II] has destroyed the masses' dream. He has implemented a U.S.-Israeli decision in order to take revenge on Syria and the Arabs, and to retaliate against them on behalf of Israel and the United States.

Concluding its comment, *TISHRIN* demands that all Arabs move swiftly in order to avenge their nation and to stop this new apostasy of Cam Hassan. The Arabs should affirm that history will not be reversed regardless of the number of traitors and capitulators. *TISHRIN* demands that the Arab nation impose the same measures and the same political and economic sanctions on the Moroccan regime that were imposed on As-Sadat and his regime by the Baghdad and subsequent summits. *TISHRIN* affirms that hesitation and lukewarm stands in dealing with these phenomena may encourage such moves and my further expand them. If the Arabs want to serve themselves, the should serve their cause.

Conditions for Withdrawal From Lebanon Reaffirmed

JN211319 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, a few days ago the first anniversary of the 17 May agreement took place, an agreement the United States wanted to impose on Lebanon within the framework of its attempt to Americanize the region and enable Israel to impose its hegemony on Lebanon and infiltrate the other Arab countries. The U.S.-Israeli agreement has resoundingly collapsed in Lebanon, putting in motion the nationalist trend in Lebanon and the pan-Arab trend in the Arab arena. The defeat of the agreement also constituted a good prelude to the defeat of the U.S.-Israeli onslaught against the Arab homeland.

The agreement was foiled because the Lebanese people categorically rejected it. Syria and the Arab masses also rejected it as it harms Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and national decisionmaking; makes Lebanon an extension of the Israeli security zone which knows no boundaries in the Arab land; and removes Lebanon from its Arab surroundings and transforms it into a base for Israeli military and political presence directed against Syria and the Arab nation, serving the objectives of U.S. policy. The agreement was also foiled because it was unjust, imposed by a strong aggressor party on a weak and subdued party whose land is occupied and whose rights are usurped. Neither the Israeli military presence nor the U.S. military interference in Lebanon helped save the agreement.

From the beginning, Syria has stood at Lebanon's side against U.S. interference, the Israeli occupation, and the agreement that transforms Lebanon into a base for imperialism and for Israel and makes it a gateway for them to Syria and to the other Arab countries. Syria's stand has been based on the right of self-defense, and on the right to defend the Arab nation's rights and interests and safeguard Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Syria's stand on Lebanon is a principled invariable stand. Syria's concern for Lebanon's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity is a genuine and constant concern stemming from Syria's national and pan-Arab interests and its relations with Lebanon. Our concern for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty also means our respect for this independence and sovereignty.

That is why Syria has stated that it will respect any demand, including the demand for the Syrian forces withdrawal from Lebanon that a Lebanese national government would put forth and that stem from Lebanese national accord and represents the Lebanese people's national will.

Respect for Lebanon's independence and sovereignty also means respect for the national decisions that the Lebanese Government, which represents the Lebanese people, would make concerning the measures of security and safety on Lebanese territory that will be implemented by the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese security forces. This means that Syria believes that only the Lebanese national will must exist in Lebanon and that the task of security in its various forms must be entrusted only to the forces of the Lebanese legitimate authorities.

Syria is ready to assist Lebanon in the operation of liberating its territory from the Israeli invaders and in removing the obstacles from the path of national accord that will lead to the exercise of the national decisionmaking in all Lebanon.

The first task that faces Lebanon masses, nationalist forces, and authorities is to liberate the Lebanese land from the Israeli invaders, spread Lebanese sovereignty over all the Lebanese territories, and channel all potentials and capabilities for rendering Israeli military and political presence on Lebanese territory impossible, and to enable the national government to exercise its authority and the Lebanese national decisionmaking in all the Lebanese territory.

Prime Ministar Receives CSSR's Bahyl 19 May

JN191525 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1330 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) — Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm today received CSSR General Engineering Minister Pavol Bahyl and the members of his delegation in the presence of General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Syrian Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister and defense minister.

The discussion during this meeting dealt with the close, developing Syrian-CSSR ties that are being continuously strengthened through meetings, contacts, and the common principles between the two friendly countries in the struggle agaisnt U.S. and Zionist plans.

The conferees emphasized the close Syrian-CSSR friendship and the positive results that are being achieved by the great steps of cooperation taken in all fields, a cooperation that both sides seek to expand continuously.

Al-Ahmar Meets With CPCZ's Varga 19 May

JN191533 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1320 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) — Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, received here today the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ] delegation led by Comrade Julius Varga, member of the CPCZ Central Committee, in the presence of the CSSR ambassador in Damascus.

Comrade al-Ahmar spoke about the continuous efforts that are being exerted in the economic and social development process in Syria toward building a socialist society. He expressed his satisfaction with the growth and development of the ties of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the CPCZ. Comrade al-Ahmar also spoke about the developments in the Arab region, especially the Palestine question, the situation in Lebanon, and Syria's main role in confronting Israeli aggression agaisnt the Arab nation and bravely and firmly resisting and foiling imperialist, Zionist, and reactionary plans.

On the other hand, Comrade Julius Varga referred to the cordial relations between the two parties and countries and said that Syria has become a steadfast bastion against imperialism and one of the strongholds of liberation and progress in the world.

Ba'th Official Receives Varga

JN191528 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1315 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Damascus, 19 May (SANA) — Comrade Julius Varga, member of Czechoslovak Communist Party Central Committee, has praised the wise and courageous policy pursued by Syria in all spheres and fields under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

During his meeting here today with Comrade Muhammad Haydar, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and head of the command's Foreign Relations Bureau, Comrade Varga affirmed Czechoslovakia's support for Syria's struggle stands against imperialism and Zionism and their aggressive plans. During this meeting, Comrade Haydar explained Syria's firm and principled policy under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad in confronting all the plots and plans of U.S. imperialism, Zionism, and reaction against peoples and their interests.

Al-Asad Forms Committee for Economic Planning

JN211249 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has issued a presidential decree on the formation of a committee to prepare for the sixth economic and social plan within the context of long term planning until the year 2000.

The committee will be headed by the deputy prime minister for economic affairs. Its members will include the minister of state for planning affairs, the minister of state for cabinet affairs, the assistant to the minister of state for planning affairs, and the director of administrative and financial affairs in the state planning commission.

The decree stipulates that the committee will have the authorities necessary to achieve its mission and will have the right to make the necessary decisions to contract local studies and scientific research.

Khaddam Meets Arab Economic Officials 21 May

JN211225 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] At 1000 this morning Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam received Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council and Muhammad ash-Sharif, assistant secretary general of the Council. During the meeting, talks focused on economic cooperation among Arab countries.

Damascus Gathering Marks Ashqelon Operation

JN190656 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The PFLP held a celebration in Al-Yarmuk Camp in Damascus last night to commemorate the 40th day of the death of the heroes of Ashqelon-Gaza operation. The celebration began with 1-minute of silence as a mark of respect for the Arab nation's martyrs.

'Ala' ad-Din 'Abdin, Ba'th Party Central Committee member and secretary of the Damascus Ba'th Party branch, delivered a speech praising the martyrs of the operation. He stressed that the Camp David accords were the only thing that the United States had to offer to the region in addition to the 17 May agreement, which was abrogated through the Lebanese people's steadfastness and struggle, and through Syria's steadfastness. The Ba'th party's speech emphasized that the Syrian-Palestinian struggle has been united throughout history and will continue to be united in the future. 'Ala' ad-Din added that the Ashqelon-Gaza heroes' daring operation reaffirms that our people have willingly accepted the option of steadfastness and confrontation until liberation and victory. He added: From this premise, we have firmly supported national Lebanon in entrenching its struggle and steadfastness, and we have enabled it to expel the aggressor NATO forces.

George Hawi delivered a speech on behalf of the nationalist forces, and George Habash delivered a speech on behalf of the Palestinian revolution. The speeches praised the Syrian-Palestinian-Lebanese cohesion, and Syria's steadfastness under President Hafiz al-Asad, who assumed the vanguard role in toppling the 17 May agreement. The speeches also denounced the Moroccan regime's action in hosting the Jewish conference and welcoming the Zionist delegation. The speeches also denounced Yasir 'Arafat's deviationist trend, and called for eliminating the deviationist trend in the Palestinian arena and escalating armed struggle on the soil of Palestine. The speeches also hailed the struggle of the Palestinian Arab People, whose sons are confronting the enemy's tanks and soldiers with sticks and stones.

Damascus Notes Iraqi-Egyptian Normalization

JN200714 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Cairo — The Iraqi regime's Trade Center in Cairo has begun work to prepare the suitable atmosphere for supporting and developing trade relations between the Iraqi and Egyptian regimes. Reports from Cairo say that a number of trade agreements have been signed between the establishments of the two regimes since the middle of last April. It is worth mentioning that trade relations between the Iraqi and Egyptian regimes returned to normal last August.

AL-BA'TH Warns Against U.S. Moves in Gulf

JN220958 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 22 May 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The U.S. Presence in the Arab Gulf Waters" *AL-BA'TH* says: These days, the Arab Gulf region is witnessing a series of local and international moves heralding many dangers which may engulf this region under various slogans and claims which are merely bridgeheads by which the U.S. policy will enter into the Arab Gulf, under the title of protection, in order to entrench U.S. presence in that vital and strategic place which is near to the oil sources and only a few steps away from the USSR's vital geographic space.

Though the incident of the oil tankers hit by the splinters of the Iraqi-Iranian war was the declared cause for such moves and maneuvers, the preparation for these moves has been taking place for some time and perhaps even before the eruption of this war as the Gulf region in the opinion of most of the western strategists, specifically U.S. strategists, is a very importan region in the imperialists plan for expansion and hegemony. Some even claim that the one who tightly holds the neck of this gulf holds the necks of the Far East and Middle East and possesses all the factors for political success or defeat in the East.

From this premise, we are not surprised about the great enthusiasm demonstrated by the U.S. Administration in wake of the reports about the oil tankers that were hit in the Gulf waters and its dispatch of U.S. Vice President George Bush to Oman to arrange a new state of affairs allowing the U.S. strike force to move to the Gulf waters at any available momenet. This will be the prelude to controlling the oil sources and this vital artery and imposing the appropriate formula for the development of the Gulf war in a manner that will serve the new U.S. presence, entrench it, and provide sufficient justificatios for its persistence.

From another angle, we are not surprised that the tools for the implementation of all these plans will be some Arab countries and forces, foremost the Omani regime, which has become an operations room for the U.S. Administration and an active broker which seeks military bases for welcoming the rapid deployment forces.

What is taking place is like playing with fire, and those who play with fire, get their fingers burned because this U.S. onslaught which has started to materialize on the shores of the Gulf cannot succeed with ease. U.S. interests are not the only interests which deserve to be protected in the gateways of the Gulf. The Arabs have interests too. The people in the east and the progressive world also have interests. All this feverish activity will be no more than a show-off that will reveal its mortal impotence and will send it back to the place from where it came, and will make the U.S. plan in the Gulf region an indigestible operation in an area which does not easily give flesh as nourishment to the sharks.

While we warn against the gravity of this suspect U.S. activity, we in Syria appeal to our Arab brothers in the Gulf region to rise to the level of responsibility and to take the necessary precautions. The U.S. trip in the Gulf waters has become more serious than at any time before, and its dangers are also threatening us more than at any time before.

U.S., Israeli To Announce New 'Defense Alliance'

JN201401 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 20 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen. The U.S.-Israeli aggressive alliance has entered a new stage which may be a true expression of a real close and organic relationship between both parties. Various political and press reports confirm that both parties intend to announce the so-called defense alliance. Although the details of this alliance have not yet been made available regarding the spheres and horizons of this alliance, we can affirm that such an alliance will give the United States opportunities to interfere militarily in order to impose its direct hegemony over the Arab region and will give Israel the excuses and pretexts to facilitate the implementation of its expansionist aggressive plans aimed at establishing the greater Zionist plan; namely, the greater Zionist state from the Euphrates to the Nile.

The Arabs will not forget that U.S. hostility to their interests and rights is parallel to U.S. bias toward Israel; as much as this hostility escalates so the bias increases. The Americans acknowledged the Zionist entity a few minutes after it was established. Ever since, the Americans have been providing that entity with the means of its continuation, and with means of its expansion and aggression. The Americans supplied that entity with funds and arms as well as all forms of political support; they encoraged that entity to direct blows to the Arabs' interests and rights; and they did not hesitate to encroach on the world public opinion, to paralyze the international will, and to obstruct the UN Charter, principles, and resolutions for the sake of the Zionists. This continued to the extent that President Reagan declared that Israel is the first strategic backer of the United States, and that Israel's interests are geared to the U.S. interests.

Perhaps the most obvious framework of alliance etween the Americans and the Zionists is the strategic cooperation agreement which includes many memorandums of understanding. Every memorandum is more hostile to the Arab rights than the previous one. In accordance with the last memorandum which was signed in Washington last November, the United States granted that Israeli debts be trasferred into gifts and donations. In accordance with this memorandum, the United States has the right to store its arms in theIsraeli military bases. This is in addition to other forms of cooperation which time does not allow us to mention now.

It is no exaggeration to say that the history of relations between countries has never witnessed an alliance similar to the one that exists between the United States and Israel. Despite this fact, both aggressive parties are not satisfied; they are aiming to announce the so-called defensive alliance.

However, the calamity is not represented only by the declaration of this alliance and the implementation of its contents, but by the fact that some Arab rulers are still wagering on the United States to solve the so-called Middle East crisis. In fact, they are competing to gain the satisfaction of the Washington rulers. We wonder what these Arab rulers say about this new aggressive alliance, and what they will do about this blatant U.S. hostility toward the Arab rights, and about this complete U.S. bias toward Israel? Is this not enough to admit that declaring loyalty to the United States is endorsed to the account of Israel against the Arab nation and its legitimate rights?

Additional Commentary on U.S.-Israeli Aggression

JN181556 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabci 1130 GMT 18 May 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners: After having appointed itself custodian in the region, and turning its forces into an international police force with the right to undermine the independence and sovereingty of Arab countries, the United States has begun hinting at aggression and speaking, in undertones, of using force.

For its part, Israel is threatening and concentrating forces and military equipment, awaiting orders from Washington to warm up the atmosphere in the region, and still the international will for peace and security.

The United States sees no reason to stop saying that its interests are the same as Israel's interests. Threats against these interests mean that the military strike against the common enemy of the United States and Israel will be a joint military strike. The common enemy of the United States and Israel is represented by the Arab force of confrontation, with its masses who reject U.S. logic and Zionist interpretations.

Because the nature of the alliance between the U.S. and Zionist leadership considers the Israeli soldier a U.S. combatant, and the U.S. soldier a force todefend the aims of Israel; then it follow that preparations for aggression must be in concert and synchronized. This will hold true as long as the U.S.-Zionist objective is one, and as long as the joint aggression is directed against their most mortal enemy in the region.

The preparations for the joint military strike have preceded the aggression plan itself. This is demonstrated by rearranging the Arab situation according to U.S. requests, and by establishing military bases and arming Israel with modern military armaments. The hidden facts have been revealed, and the intentions have been exposed in the same way as the partners in carrying out the U.S.-Israeli action have been made more clear. This has been confirmed by the Moroccan regime's action in hosting a Zionist conference on Arab land. It has also been confirmed by the rush toward capitulation, and the kneeling of more than one Arab regime at the doorsteps of the White House.

Israel has benefited from the movement of retreat and defeat which has begun to widen in Arab circles. The United States has also benefited from the military and political facilities it has obtained in the Arab world. These facilities have become the door from which it can direct a strong and solid strike at the pan-Arab defenders of the rights and objectives of the Arab nation.

The United States does not deny that Syria is the obstacle in the face of its ambitions and diplomacy in the Middle East. Israel does not hide the fact that all its war preparations and all its military concentrations are to face the Syrians on their territory or inside Lebanon. This is why the existing formula in the region stresses that the defenders of U.S. practices are partners in the probable aggression. At the same time they are also a supporting force for Zionist logic which completely contradicts the hopes and aspirations of Arab masses.

The capitulationist behavior of the retreatist regimes in the Arab arena — which will not be forgiven by the masses — will not win the battle which has been planned by U.S. and Israeli strategists. The battle means defining Arab existence and identity. This is what makes Syria prepare itself to become the best defender of Arab existence and of its pan-Arab progressive identity.

AL-BA'TH Comments on Lebanese Policy Statement

JN211013 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 21 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, under the headline "Lebanon, and the Return to the Arab Option" *AL-BA'TH* says: After two work sessions which had fulfilled the various arguments and included all the opinions, the policy statment of the Lebanese national unity government was unanamously approved by the ministers. It is now ready to be presented to parliament for a vote of confidence at a session which will probably be held within the next few days.

It is premature to deal with the policy statement, because it has not yet been published or announced, but according to information by informed sources about its main points, it can be said that the government which has passed its first test, which was the test of its formation, has been able to rise to the responsibility entrusted to it, and through realizing the hopes placed in it, has been able to achieve another success by adopting a statement which has stressed, among other things, a number of urgent priorities foremost of which are liberating the south from the Zionist invasion forces and beginning measures for a comprehensive political reform. In addition to this, the statement also stresses Lebanon's Arab affiliation in every sense of the word.

This government's third step, which we have no doubt will be successful, will be to gain the confidence of parliament. This will mean embarking upon the practical interpretation of all the contents of the policy statement.

We believe that despite the difficulties, this beginning was a successful beginning which has proved the ability of the national unity government to overcome the obstacles, especially since the head of this government has repeatedly announced that he would not accept failure.

AL-BA'TH says: Some people may think that we are over optimistic. We must admit that the way that lies ahead of the government which has taken the salvation march upon itself is a difficult way, but it is almost clear. The double internal and external dangers are great burdens on the government. These dangers must be confronted and exterminated.

Since the abrogation of the treaty of submission, Israel has continued to obstruct efforts for the security and stability of Lebanon, directly and indirectly. Israel will not retreat on its attempts. Instead it will increase its obstructions with every step achieved by the Lebanese Government on the road toward salvation from the tragedy and tribulation. Israel, which has been able to buy agents for itself, aims at distancing Lebanon from the Arab option and at opening the doors to the Israeli-U.S. Option. It realizes that the Geneva and Lausanne conferences, and consequently the Lebanese Government's present policy statement will mean the return of Lebanon to the Arab option, the only option for its salvation and an end to its tribulation.

This is the option which we must all preserve, government, people, and masses of a nation which are struggling for their dignity. All those who oppose this option must be taken to account because we live in a time of difficult challenges and are in the midst of the battle of the one fate, whether in Lebanon or in any other Arab country. Is not our entire homeland an objective of our mortal Zionist enemy?

TISHRIN Comments on Call for Arab Unity

JN200950 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 20 May 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *TISHRIN* stresses that Syria's sincere and warm call for a unified Arab stand toward the present dangers, developments, and bids, is a call for an urgent pan-Arab duty which is necessary, if our nation really wants to confront the dangers, follow the developments, and deal with the bids in an ideal manner that guarantees its interests, secures its rights, entrenches its sovereignty and will, and preserves its dignity and right to build its future.

This call, which Syria is again making to the brothers through the Arab foreign ministers conference in Tunis is not new. This call has been an open call and will remain as such. Syria has always extended its hand and opened its heart to all the brothers who respond to it, and it will remain to do so.

This call is necessary and important for more than one reason, from more than one case, and for more than one mission.

The continuation of the present deteriorating Arab situation will cause further harm to the interests of the nation, and more setbacks, defeats, exhaustion, and tretreats.

A glance at the map of events will reveal the extent of the danger from continuing the deterioration of the Arab state of affairs.

This state of affairs which holds no glimmer of hope apart from Syria; no glorious and dignified stand apart from Syria's; and no victory, progress, positive steps, brave positions, effective confrontation except through Syria.

We recall these facts without any exaggeration and in harmony with the Syrian open call for a unified position, joint action, and effective solidarity.

Syria does not make this call from a difficult, or weak position, rather from a position which increases in its firmness and courage and which has been witnessed and talked about by the world. It makes this call from an entrenched, solid, powerful, and steadfast position which has enabled Syria to effectively and successfully deal with an confront the enemies bravely.

Syria, together with its loyal alliance with the Lebanese nationalist forces, which has defeated the U.S. plan and the Israeli ambitions, and by this struggle alliance foiled the treaty of submission; Syria, through its strategic alliance with the struggling forces of the Palestinian revolution, which has contained and foiled the line of capitulation, settlements, and humiliating barterings; Syria, who enjoys this high standing, and occupies this status of respect and appreciation; Al-Asad's Syria; wants from this sincere new call, to utilize its national, pan-Arab, and international achievements for joint Arab action and necessary Arab solidarity. Syria wants to strengthen its nation by itself, and to strengthen itself by its nation.

It goes without saying that the most important issue requiring a joint position, is without argument, the practices of some Arab regimes, such as Hassan's hosting the Zionist conference while the world is holding its breath expecting a new aggression against Syria.

Shamir, Peres Debate Issues in 10th Knesset

'Excerpts' of Shamir Address

TA220735 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 21 May 84

["Excerpts" of address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir to the Knesset on 21 May; "three introductory paragraphs and one middle paragraph omitted;" GPO transcript does not indicate where the omitted passage comes]

[Text] Israel's borders are calm, though the flag of peace does not yet fly above all of them, and some of them are still awaiting peace-treaty anchored settlements which would establish and secure for generations (to come) good and normal neighborly relations among all the peoples destined to live together in this part of the world.

The Israeli-Arab conflict pales increasingly before the bloody maelstrom raging along the Iran-Iraq borders and spreading to the entire Persian Gulf, in which there are horrible losses of hundreds of thousands human lives, and huge national and international interests are faced with frightening dangers. Iraq and Iran, as well as their neighboring Gulf countries, are not among Israel's friends. The attitude toward Israel of the participants in this shocking drama is characterized by manifestations of extreme hostility and threats of annihilation.

Still, we say today: Israel does not rejoice in their misfortune. Humanly — and even politically — speaking, it is impossible to rejoice while a tempest of death and perdition rages in the region in which we live, (a storm) which no one knows where it is liable to lead. We must only remember that this insane war — the initiating of which was utterly senseless — has been going on for almost four years; yet no international figure or element has succeeded in stopping it, and even now there seems to be no chance of ending it.

This is a difficult — but important — lesson for a people, to whom all those concerned about the settlement of the conflict in which it is involved propose to trust the existing international bodies, and resort to them. In light of the events in the area of the storm, Israel has no choice but to adhere to its firm decision to rely mainly on its own power and national unity in a day of wrath.

Neither can one refrain from remarking that for some of the countries involved in this drama, the situation could have been better and safer had they, instead of threatening Israel and supporting its extremist enemies, found a way to cooperate with Israel, which dwells on the shores of the Mediterranean. Such cooperation could have also helped solving the problems of flow of oil to the West, as well as taking care of security of countries not directly involved in the war.

Unfortunately, in countries closer to Israel there is no discernible sign of an honest effort to promote the political processes that are likely to lead towards greater peace and stability. Ideological and practical inertia among the Arab nations prevents them from taking any step towards responding to Israel's willingness to sit at the negotiating table together with any Arab country.

With puzzling and tedious consistency, every once in a while there is broached the remedy of an international conference of all the international and regional elements, at which a peaceful solution to all the differences of opinion between Israel and the Arab countries would supposedly be found. Amazingly, nobody comes up with such a proposal for the bloody Persian Gulf conflict; and besides, it is obvious that such a conference can serve only as a forum for propaganda and public relations exercises, and not as the means for attaining peaceful settlements. Lately, Jordan as well has joined those advocating this quack panacea.

In the past few months, we have heard repeated extreme declarations of the Jordanian king, who is willing to conduct negotiations with Israel only if he is promised that he would get Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District — at best, in joint ownership with the PLO — and, of course, Jerusalem. And all this in the language of ultimatums, and with the certainty that such statements will do no harm to the label of "moderation" which has been stamped on him by the international media. What can Israel's response to this sort of statements be?

Unfortunately, those among us who hint to the Jordanian monarch in various ways that if and when they hold the helm of power in Israel "there would be something to talk about" are working against the interests and the future of the State of Israel.

The policy of the Israeli Government is open and clear: We are prepared at any time to enter into negotiations with any Arab government on the drafting of a peace treaty between them and ourselves. We will not accept any preconditions, nor promise any concessions concerning our sovereignty in Eretz Yisra'el.

The most reasonable, acceptable and logical negotiations framework has been in existence for nearly six years: the Camp David agreements, which brought peace between Israel and Egypt. True, we are not pleased with the state of relations with Egypt. Peace without full normalization of relations between the two peoples is not full peace; and if all the hopes we had pinned on the Camp David agreements had in fact been fulfilled, the atmosphere in the Middle East today would be much more encouraging, and would stimulate additional peace efforts. But even under present circumstances, no one can deny that the Camp David agreements constitute the most important political development to emerge in the Middle East in the last generation. And these agreements are still awaiting implementation in those fields where, through no fault of our own, negotiations have been suspended, which were likely to have brought us to further stages along the road to peace.

We do not despair; and we believe that our partners in these negotiations will soon realize that there is no path other than the road of Camp David, that it must be returned to, and that every wasted hour is to be lamented.

The government has worked and will continue to work ceaselessly to achieve the goals we set ourselves on our border with Lebanon. After doing away with terrorist attacks from Lebanese soil against Israeli citizens in the Galilee, we must now guarantee conditions and arrangements in south Lebanon that will prevent the renewal of these attacks.

We are working in cooperation with the population of south Lebanon, so that local Lebanese elements can assume responsibility for protecting security, and free the IDF from these tasks. There has been progress toward that end. Local elements are showing ability and motivation, and we must note that there has been an improvement in the situation. The population of south Lebanon understands more and more that the IDF did not come there to conquer and rule, but rather to ensure peace and stability for civilians on both sides of the border. When this is achieved, the IDF will withdraw — but not before. [last two words underlined]

I must point out that despite all the sad upheavals that have befallen the Lebanese people, the realization is spreading in Lebanon that Lebanese interests demand a dialogue with Israel, to allow for a solution of the problem of the south and the withdrawal of the IDF. Anyone there who thinks that extremist rhetoric and acts of terror against the IDF will force Israel to abandon the goal of ensuring peace for the Galilee is mistaken, is misleading (others) and is harming his own interests. We have grounds for hoping that a joint Lebanese-Israeli effort will ensure peace and security in south Lebanon for a long time to come.

For some time now we have been hearing almost daily threats from Syria. We find it difficult to understand the object of these threats. Are the Syrians trying thus to reassure themselves, or to frighten us?

Israel is confident of its power and the justice of its position. We know, just as the Syrians know, that Israel has no plans or intentions of attacking Syria or going to war. Israel aspires to peace, and does not need any more wars. If certain circles in Syria want to heat up the atmosphere, they should understand that Israel will not be dragged into any provocation. We shall be on guard, and shall protect our security and our interests, recognizing that the Syrians know very well that they will not gain anything by provoking Israel.

Israel's international position is strong and stable. Relations with the United States are characterized by an atmosphere of cooperation and understanding the likes of which we have not seen for some time. Important achievements in a variety of fields testify to this, from the terms of aid to negotiations on a free trade zone between the two countries. The differences of opinion that do exist have not prevented the very positive evolution in relations, an evolution which strengthens Israel's might and status.

In Europe, Israel is continuing to fight against the threats to its agricultural exports posed by the expansion of the (European Economic) Community. Our normal, friendly relations with the nations of Europe continue, despite the differences in outlook which exist on several Middle East issues. In the Third World, in Africa nd Asia, we are continuing to work to attain close and cooperative relations with those countries which are interested in such. There has been significant, albeit slow, progress in this sphere. In the field of Israel's international relations, the invitation of a group of prominent Israelis to the Jewish Community Congress in Morocco last week should be noted. The fact that Israeli citizens were given an open and friendly reception by official representatives of that Arab country attests to the acceptance of Israel's independent existence which is gradually spreading throughout the Arab lands. I would not attribute political importance to this event, since no political talks were held; but it clearly made a serious contribution to creating a more comfortable and encouraging atmosphere in Israel's reltions with the Arab countries. I hope that Morocco's rulers, who are well-acquainted with the ins and outs of the Israel-Arab conflict, will come to the conclusion that a Palestinian state in the Land of Israel is not consonant with the independent existence of the State of Israel, and that the only political course capable of leading to peace in our region is that offered by the Camp David accords — to whose achievement Morocco contributed.

Unfortunately, I must address some remarks to an extremely grave internal development in Israel. On 27.4.84, the head of the General Security Services [GSS] reported to me that an attempt to plant explosives on several Arab buses had been uncovered and thwarted. The perpetrators were arrested, and following their interrogation, others suspected of perpetrating attacks on Arab residents of Judaea and Samaria were also arrested. The swift and effective action of the GSS prevented a catastrophe. Besides heavy losses in human life, the lunatic deeds which were prevented could have caused terrible damage to the State of Israel, its political struggles, its standing, and its security. The settlement of Judaea and Samaria could also have suffered heavy damage.

It is worrisome and regrettable that after 36 years of independence, there are still those among us who deny the authority of the state and who do not accept the fundamental principle that the Israeli Government, and it alone, is responsible for Israel's security. In the course of the interrogations, which have been conducted impartially, it has become clear that this is a small group of people who were tempted into taking this crooked path. The decisive majority of the settlers of Judaea and Samaria, the Golan Heights, and the Gaza sector dissociate themselves from these acts without reservation. There is thus no justification for sullying the entire settlement enterprise with the crime of individuals who went astray. They will be brought to trial and will bear the consequences of their actions; but the splendid enterprise of Zionist Jewish settlement of the various parts of the Land of Israel will continue, with the support and full encouragement of the government. We should support those figures and settlement leaders who are working day and night to educate and convince (others), that there may remain no doubt whatsoever in anyone's heart as to the gravity of these acts and the enormous damage which might have resulted therefrom.

Our sages said: "One gains possession of the Land of Israel only through hardship." The existence of a Jewish group capable of committing such actions is part of this hardship. I hope that the exposure of this dangerous phenomenon will prevent the recurrence of such actions in the future.

Yesterday, the international economic conference opened in Jerusalem, with a scope and a level of participants that has never before been seen here. Israel's achievements in industry and research act as a magnet to the international business community. Jerusalem and the entire country are full of tourists, and the negotiations with the U.S. on a free trade zone are being conducted at a vigorous pace and are advancing, as expected, towards the achievement of an agreement which will greatly contribute to Israel's exports. These positive economic facts strengthen, and will continue to strengthen, the nation's standing in all spheres. We know that there are many problems still awaiting solution, and there is no lack of difficulties which must be overcome; but basically, we are seeing constant political and security progress, which gives us the margin of time needed for immigration, settlement, and building up the economy. Years ago, we called the Zionist movement "the state on the way," now, we can say that the state is on the way to realizing all the goals of the Zionist movement.

Peres' Speech 'Controversial'

TA211454 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1405 GMT 21 May 84

[Report by Sha'ul Stav from Knesset building]

[Excerpt] Shim'on Peres began a controversial political speech; he reviewed 7 years of the Likud government's rule and spoke about a drop in immigration, an increase in the social gap, the freeze in the peace with Egypt, and the political agreement with Lebanon which no longer exists. Shim'on Peres devoted sharp, clear remarks to the Jewish underground that has been exposed in Judaea, Samaria, and the Golan Heights.

[Begin Peres recording] The underground that has now been uncovered is a moral catastrophe for us all, and reflects political blindness. This is not the birth pangs of a messiah. It is a catastrophe; it is blindness. It is a political catastrophe; it is a moral catastrophe, because it is inconceivable that Jews should shoot at defenseless students, that they should plant mines in buses carrying women and children, that they should try to attack mosques or mayors. This is paganism. There is no compromising with it, not in the religious field nor in the secular field. This is also political blindness. Anyone who believes that Jewish terrorism is capable of solving problems between ourselves and the Arabs is basically saying to the Arabs that Arab terrorism can do the same thing from the Arab viewpoint. Anyone who turns to terrorism is inviting terrorism. Anyone who shoots civilians is harming our ability to recruit opposition to attacks against our own civilians. [end recording]

This, as far as can be seen, is the last political debate that will be held by the 10th Knesset. Both the first main speakers, Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres, are competing with each other for the right to head the next government of the State of Israel.

Peres on Jordan

TA211526 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] The Labor Party chairman has said in the Knesset that the Alignment is not insisting on incorporating Jordan into negotiations based on the Camp David agreements, because Jordan did not take part in the deliberations which led to the agreements. He argued with those who say that Jordan will never join in negotiations, reminding them that they also did not believe that Egypt would open negotiations.

Further Peres, Shamir Comments

TA211902 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] [Begin Peres videotape] Four countries — Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and Israel — must have an interest in maintaining calm waters and tranquillity in the region. Therefore, I would propose to the littoral countries of this gulf that they reach an agreement or arrangement among themselves which will guarantee freedom of navigation in those waters, lessening the military threat along the shores of the gulf. [end videotape]

[Begin Shamir videotape] They [the Jewish underground] will be brought to justice, and will bear the consequences of their actions. However, the splendid cause of Jewish-Zionist settlement in the various parts of Eretz Yisra'el will continue, with the support and full encouragement of the government. [end videotape]

Knesset To Conclude Activity Mid-June

TA211654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1605 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The 10th Knesset will stop its activities in the week after Shavu'ot, [Feast of Tabernacles], that is, in the middle of next month. This is a compromise between the demands of the Likud and the Alignment. The Alignment wanted the Knesset to conclude its debates by the end of next month and the Likud, at the beginning of the month.

Ambassador Rosenne on Further Attacks in Al-Biqa'

TA211740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Israeli ambassador to the United States has warned that Israel will continue to attack the Iranian terrorist bases in the Lebanese Al-Biqa'. He said that weapons and explosive materials intended to attack the northern settlements were being produced in several of those bases. Ambassador Rosenne was speaking at a news conference in Hartford, Connecticut.

Charges on 'Ayn al-Hulwah Rejected at UNSC Debate

TA220538 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Israel's ambassador to the United Nations has rejected charges levelled during last night's Security Council meeting on the incidents at the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp and said the IDF wasn't in the camp when two people were killed there last week. Judy Lessing reports:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Ambassador Yehuda Blum castigated the Arab group for insisting on the meeting at a time when there are Middle East trouble spots, such as the Persian Gulf, far more likely to escalate ominously than southern Lebanon. He said the Arab states must have feared their hypocrisy glands would atrophy unless they did something to revitalize them.

[Blum] What other construction can we place on this grotesque spectacle that is being performed here today? And you, members of the Council, know that it is a grotesque spectacle because some of you had said so in private conversations which, of course, will prevent nobody from following here the scenario that has been decided upon.

[Lessing] The IDF went into 'Ayn al-Hulwah on the night of May 15th, Ambassador Blum said, because they had reliable information there were stockpiles of weapons and ammunition there. They found what they were looking for. When they detonated explosives, some homes were damaged and the IDF has said it will help the owners repair them. The camp was full of PLO factions who, after the Israeli troops left, fought amongst themselves, the ambassador told the council.

Kuwait and Lebanon led the Arab attack on Israel, calling the actions in the camp clear aggression. They said that as the occupying force Israel was responsible for everything which happened in southern Lebanon and they again called for a full withdrawal. While it was hoped that this debate would be short, it is not over yet and it will move to a second day late tomorrow. Meanwhile, six Gulf states want an urgent council meeting on what they term Iran's aggression against Persian Gulf shipping. [end recording]

Egypt Protests IDF Activity in 'Ayn al-Hulwah

TA211832 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Egypt has issued a sharp protest to Israel regarding the IDF's actions in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in southern Lebanon. Our ambassador was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in Cairo, and was told that Egypt condemns Israel's policy of collective punishment in southern Lebanon and the territories. Egypt especially denounces the demolition of houses, stating that this is a violation of human rights and of the Geneva Convention. Egyptian papers today claimed that the IDF had blown up houses in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp with the residents still inside.

Energy Minister on Need for Nuclear Reactors

TA181744 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1607 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Tel Aviv, 18 May (ITIM) — "As a result of the delay in acquiring nuclear energy reactors in Israel, we will have to build our own within the next generation and as soon as possible." This was said today by Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman in a lecture at the Tel Aviv Engineering Club.

Minister Ne'eman said that Israel is 20 years behind in building nuclear power stations in Israel, while such countries as Finland and France now produce 50 percent of their electricity from nuclear power stations.

"People are not prepared to sell us reactors because we did not sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Agreement. Argentina and Brazil, however, have also not signed and, nevertheless, large companies from Western countries are building nuclear reactors there," the science minister said.

Professor Ne'eman added that because of the difficulties in purchasing, an independent model of our own would have to be developed. "There are now models of advanced reactors and we can now use these to enter the next generation of nuclear reactors.

Furthermore, if it becomes known that we are developing an advanced reactor of our own, people will sell us reactors. For any consideration whatsoever, we must develop an advanced reactor of our own."

Professor Ne'eman disclosed that a decision had indeed been made to enter this field and his ministry is preparing the means to make independent development possible.

The science minister also mentioned the reactors of the next century, the type known as fusion reactors [kurey hitukh]. This refers to reactors requiring temperatures of hundreds of degrees of heat, in which research is just beginning.

His ministry is helping to establish a laboratory to study the issue, which will be headed by a young expert who immigrated to Israel not long ago.

The minister recalled that a private company had begun noncommercial research in the field of fusion reactors in Israel, but denied the reports that this referred to the building of such reactors.

He said that this referred to research that would aid development, and the minister recommended that these entrepreneurs be granted such benefits as are given to science-enriched industries. "This is a question of the establishment of a modern center of research into nuclear-produced heat and I encourage this initiative."

In the field of space, Minister Ne'eman said that Israel is approaching the point where it can obtain a place with the Israeli communications satellite. "We have submitted a request. We have begun the final stage and we will have a place. Now investments are needed.

Anyone who is interested in investing $150 million can receive a very good option to put a satellite into space and join the international communications market."

Professor Ne'eman said his ministry is concentrating on developing three prime issues: computers and communications; technology and projects connected with Israel's ground and landscape, such as solar energy; other alternative sources of energy; and research into similar issues. Steering committees have already been established for the first three issues and they are working on ways to absorb technologies and take advantage of local potential in order to take the lead in these issues. Professor Ne'eman gave a precise review of the plans and projects in the field of computers and computer sciences, and how to combine science and development in Israel with the enormous projects in this field in the world. He reported that his ministry has set up a fund to help the higher education institutions to further the study of natural sciences and computer sciences in view of the shortage of trained manpower expected in these fields within the next few years.

Israeli-FRG Scientific Cooperation Reported

TA201235 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 84 p 3

[Report by Yif'at Nevo]

[Text] Israel is to participate in the research, and probably also in the production, of parts for a new type of particle accelerator [me'itz helqiqim] which causes an impact between protons and neutrons, and between positrons and neutrons. This accelerator is to be one of the largest in the world and is to be built in Germany with the cooperation of scientists from Israel, according to a decision made by the German Government last month.

Details about this project, and about scientific cooperation between Israel and Germany, were given by Minister of Science and Technology Yuval Ne'eman at a news conference held on Friday at Tel Aviv University in honor of the German Minister of Science and Technology, Dr Heinz Riesenhuber, who is visiting Israel. Dr Riesenhuber stressed that, from several points of view, the positions of the two countries are similar: both are small and have few natural resources, but both have a large reserve of high-level scientifically talented people. The ministers noted that the scientific projects which are currently being prepared by joint Israeli-German research teams total some 7 million marks. In the field of energy alone, scientists from both countries are working on 12 projects. Another interesting project, in addition to the particle accelerator, is on investigating the long distance transmission of solar energy by means of a "chemical carrier." This is a joint project conducted by Professors Dostrovski of Israel and (Hafle) of Germany.

U.S. Funds for Lavi Project Transferred

TA200920 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 84 p 1

[Report from New York by Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Recently the U.S. Administration transferred more than $100 million in military aid to Israel for the Lavi project.

The Israeli representations in the United States have recently turned over to the Finance Ministry a large part of the U.S. foreign aid allocation, which totals $250 million. This will be converted into shekels. The $250-million allocation was given special approval by the U.S. Congress. To date Israel has already received a large part of the U.S. allocation for development and production of the Lavi.

U.S. Report Critical of Inflation Efforts

TA201051 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 20 May 84 pp 1, 11

[Report from Washington by 'Oded Granot]

[Text] A new report by the AID agency attached to the U.S. State Department criticizes the new government established in Israel after the resignation of the Begin government for not devising a comprehensive program to stabilize the Israeli economy.

The report, a copy of which has reached the *MA'ARIV* correspondent in Washington, complains that Israel has not examined any plan to cancel the system of index-linking and is giving a "lower" priority to containing inflation.

Under these circumstances, the report says, no decrease in the deficit in commodities and services, which came to $5.2 billion in 1983, is to be expected.

This is the fifth annual report published by the U.S. AID agency on the Israeli economy. Its contents have not been made public, but copies of it have been distributed among congressmen on Capitol Hill. Although the aid funds for Israel are not decided upon by the U.S. AID agency, this report, which criticizes Israel, could affect the positions of members of Congress, particularly because it fits in with some of the findings of the International Monetary Fund report published not long ago.

The U.S. AID agency's report determines that the Israeli public's support for belt-tightening is "minimal:" "In October 1983, when the preparations made for monetary reform and belt-tightening were made public, the public outcry in Israel and the absence of political backing for an economic reform program forced the finance minister of Israel to resign from office," the report says.

Elsewhere the report points out that Israeli labor unions are violently against a change in the index-linking system, but nevertheless the absence of such a change is making it most difficult to lower inflation.

The Israeli Government, the report determines, did, it was true, call for a decrease in real income in 1984, but it did not explain how this could be achieved at a time when pressure to continue the system of linking salaries to the index continued.

Elsewhere the report says it does not appear that the cuts proposed for the state budget will be sufficient to reduce inflation significantly and "no long-term program has been prepared in Israel for a decrease in the dependence on financial backing [mimun ger'oni]. On the contrary, in such a situation there is a chance that the inflationary pressure will only increase."

"Taking the government's slow approach into account and the uncertainty about its ability to achieve even the most modest goal in salary and fiscal policies, the significant decrease in the deficit, of $5.2 billion in products and services, that was noted in 1983, is inconceivable," the report says.

It is even more difficult to predict the long-term chances, the report says. It is clear that Israel must reduce the financial backing for government outlays, curb private consumption, and encourage saving and investments, but a long-term comprehensive program to achieve these goals does not exist." [punctuation as published]

"With the use of statistical data, the report criticizes the grave deterioration that has taken place in the Israeli economy since the end of the 1970's, along with data about an increase in U.S. aid to Israel," from $1.7 billion in 1978 to $2.6 billion in 1984."

U.S. Postpones Establishing Jordanian Task Force

TA180928 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
18 May 84 p 1

["Exclusive" report from Washington by Amir Oren]

[Text] The Reagan administration has secretly withdrawn its plan to finance a Jordanian task force this year. The administration is about to report to Congress its intention to cancel the request to allocate $220 million from this year's defense budget to the task force. It appears that the request will be renewed next year. The temporary withdrawal of the plan to establish the Jordanian task force caused wonder as Israel discontinued its resistance to it a few months ago. In a few weeks, the joint U.S.-Jordanian Military Committee will convene in Washington for its semi-annual meeting. The Jordanian team will be headed by Zayd Ibn-Saqr, the Jordanian Army commander.

KAKH List To Include Underground Suspects

TA211648 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT
21 May 84

[Text] The KAKH movement is to include in its Knesset list several of the people detained in the affair of the Jewish underground and people detained who belong to the group known as TNT [Terror Against Terror] and people under detention for having attacked the bus near Ramallah. This time, too, Rabbi Me'ir Kahana will head the list.

RAKAH Leaves Platform, List Unchanged

TA220657 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English
22 May 84 p 2

[Report by Le'a Levavi]

[Text] Tel Aviv — RAKAH does not have to change its Knesset slate or its platform because the existing ones are so successful, MK Me'ir Wilner said at a press conference here yesterday. "In other parties, they talk about the need for new faces. They are so unsuccessful that the people ought to resign of their own accord. We don't have these problems," the RAKAH (Communist Party) secretary-general said. He said the Alignment may not really be an alternative to the Likud. "There are signs that the two big parties are planning to establish a national unity government; whether it will be headed by the Likud or the Alignment will apparently depend on the election results. Anyone who votes Alignment to get the Likud out of power may therefore be defeating his or her own purpose."

Wilner said the Jewish underground is not as marginal as people would like to think. It would not have existed for so long, he said, if it did not have military and political support in high places.

What is happening in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp could lead to another Sabra and Shatila, he said, if the local militia is allowed free rein and if the residents of the area are left defenceless. As an Israeli patriot, he said, it hurt him to learn that Israel has agreed to do "the dirtiest work in the world" for the U.S. in Nicaragua.

RAKAH declined from five seats to four in the last Knesset election because many voters believed Alignment propaganda that the only way to get rid of the Likud was to vote Alignment, Wilner said. Those voters will return to RAKAH this time, plus some new ones, and the number of RAKAH seats will grow.

Asked why the RAKAH list's first woman representative is in eighth place, despite the party's talk about equality for women, Wilner said the male MK's in his faction have done more for women's rights than have female MK's from other parties. Yehoshu'a Peretz, who led the series of Ashdod post stevedores' strikes in the 1950's, is number 15 on RAKAH's list.

HADASH Candidate List Unchanged

TA211655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT
21 May 84

[Text] The HADASH list of candidates for the Knesset election is to be exactly the same as that for the outgoing Knesset. It is headed by Me'ir Wilner, who is followed by Tawfiq Tubi, Charlie Biton, Tawfiq Zayyad, and Hashim (Mahamid). At a news conference, Me'ir Wilner explained there was no need to make any changes because his faction had stood the test.

Bulgarian CP Delegation Arrives for Visit

TA191930 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1840 GMT
19 May 84

["HADASH Spokesman Announcement" — ITIM Headline]

[Text] Tel Aviv, 19 May (ITIM) — A delegation on behalf of the Bulgarian Communist Party's Central Committee arrived in Israel on Friday, at the invitation of RAKAH's Central Committee. The delegation is headed by the deputy chief of the Bulgarian Foreign Policy and International Relations Department, Yordan Kirov. The delegation will hold talks with RAKAH's Central Committee members and will tour the country. The visit in Israel will last about a week.

Life Sentences for Murderers of Aharon Gross

TA211313 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1147 GMT
21 May 84

[Excerpt] The military court in Nabulus a short time ago handed down the sentences of those convicted in the murder of yeshiva student Aharon Gross in Hebron, and of those convicted of being accessories to the murder. The four murderers received sentences of life imprisonment, while two accomplices received 25 years imprisonment on charges of being accessories to the murder. Another person was handed a 20 year term on charges of helping the murderers escape. The eighth person accused received 10 years imprisonment on the charge of helping in the preparations for the murder. Our correspondent Gil Ronen reported from the court.

OAU Sources Say Kaunda Chairmanship 'Unlikely'

AB181225 Paris AFP in English 1141 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, May 18 (AFP) — It is highly unlikely that Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda will chair this year's summit of the Organization of African Unity (OAU), as suggested two days ago by Egyptian Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali, sources here said today.

The Egyptian review *AL-MUSAWWAR* had quoted Mr Hassan 'Ali as saying that he thought President Kaunda might be chosen because Zambia was the only African country not to have held the OAU chairmanship so far.

Sources at the OAU Secretariat confirmed today that Zambia had in fact held the OAU chairmanship for one year from 1970, and that at least 30 other African countries were entitled to the top revolving OAU post, which rotates among heads of state each year.

Eighteen countries were listed to have held the honour since 1964. In their order of precedence, they are: Egypt, Ghana, Ethiopia, Zaire, Algeria, Cameroon, Zambia, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Somalia, Uganda, Mauritius, Gabon, Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Kenya. Of those, Kenya held the chair for two years running due to the crisis in the OAU in 1982 that prevented Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi taking over from Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi.

That same crisis, triggered by controversy over Western Sahara and Chad, led to the change of venue of the 1983 summit, which was held here at OAU headquarters in June last year. As a result, Ethiopia, the incumbent, has also held the chair twice.

The 20th OAU summit, originally planned to be held in May in the Guinean capital Conakry, has now been rescheduled for the Ethiopian capital, after the new military authorities in Conakry announced that they would not be hosting the conference this year.

OAU sources expect the chairmship to move out of the hands of Ethiopian head of state, Mengistu Haile Mariam, though they would venture no guess as to who would take over. Guinea still appears the most probable candidate if the new leadership accepts to host next year's summit.

The opening date for this year's summit has yet to be announced, but observers believe it is unlikely to be before September because of the preoccupation of the Ethiopian authorities with preparations for the launching of the country's first legal political party on or about September 11.

Roundtable Talk Views Sahel Economic Prospects

AB211702 Dakar PANA in English 1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Dakar, 21 May (PANA) — The cumulative food deficit for the 1983-84 agricultural year in the eight countries that form CILSS (the Interstate Committee for the Struggle Against Drought in the Sahel) amounts to 1.6 million tonnes of grains, according to Bertin Borna, director of the United Nations Bureau for the Sahelian Region.

Mr Borna was one of the guests at a roundtable discussion hosted by the Dakar newspaper *LE SOLEIL*, and reported on in today's issue. Among *LE SOLEIL*'s other guests discussing the crisis in the Sahel were Brahmane Brah, the executive secretary of CILSS, and Adama Diallo, a United Nations consultant assigned to CILSS.

Mr Borna spoke of the clear worsening of the Sahelian ecology in 1983-84, a year which, in terms of rainfall, was one of the worst ever recorded. The levels of the River Senegal and of the River Koulikoro in Mali have never been so low since the great drought of 1913.

Grain harvests in Mauritania this year have amounted to just 12,000 tonnes — les than 10 percent of the country's needs. Similar deficits have been experienced in most of the other seven members of CILSS — Cape Verde, Gambia, Mali, Niger, Upper Volta, Chad, and Senegal.

Mr Brah pointed out that the scarcity of water, and the resulting crop failures, had not only worsened the incidence of starvation and malnutrition in the region, but had also accelerated the drift from rural zones into the cities. He estimated that, should current trends continue, the rate of urbanisation, about 7 percent a year quarter of a century ago, would reach the staggering figure of between 35 and 50 percent by the year 2000.

The roundtable dealt with the need to persuade the international community to give urgent assistance to the drought stricken countries of the zone. A Sahel plan of action, drawn up by CILSS in coordination with UNDP (United Nations Development Prgramme) and the UN Bureau for the Sahelian Region, contains a series of urgent and medium-term measures designed to fight against drought and desertification in the Sahel.

Adama Diallo said that the overwhelming immediate priority was to bring relief to the peasants of the Sahel who are suffering the consequences of the drought — to persuade the international community to give them the wherewithal to live. The action plan evaluates the needs, and recommends measures to resolve the problems posed by transporting aid.

For this the sum of 2.3 billion US dollars is indispensible. *LE SOLEIL*'s guests were optimistic that this money could be found. The investment required, pointed out Mr Brah, was nothing compared with the threat of a holocaust in the Sahel.

The action plan seeks to satisfty urgent needs — to cover the current food deficit in the region, to build up food reserves, and to increased the available sources of water.

Mr Brah admitted that the amount budgeted for measures against desertification — 5 percent of the total — was feeble, but he pointed out that in previous CILSS programmes, the amount set aside under this heading only amounted to about 1 percent of the budget.

Mr Brah was, however, convinced that the Sahel could have a prosperous future. The Sahel is not doomed, he said. It has immense agricultural potential which has not been exploited. Just give the Sahel the means, and the region will blossom again, and self-sufficiency in food will be attained.

But a series of formidable technical and cultural problems must be overcome first. In the discussion questions were raised as to how to change rural mentalities, how to persuade peasants to change their traditional agricultural and livestock practices.

Among the urgent measures needed, said Mr Brah, were the promotion of new and renewable sources of energy in order to overcome reliance on dwindling supplies of firewood, the avoidance of overgrazing, the replacement of slash and burn agriculture with crop rotation, and the building of dams to limit losses of water.

ALGERIA

President Receives Cuban Foreign Minister, Others

LD211113 Algiers APS in English 1010 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 21/05/84 (APS) — President Chadli audienced yesterday Mr Janeson Kabahube Nwenda Kalakula, Zambia's minister of finances and special envoy of President Kenneth Kaunda.

Mr Kalakula gave President Chadli a message from president of Zambia.

President Chadli also audienced yesterday a Senegalese parliamentary delegation led by Mr Daouda Sow, president of the People's National Assembly of Senegal.

On another side, President Chadli received Dr Ahmad Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo, [as received] foreign minister who briefed him on his recent visit to Tunisia where he headed the Algerian delegation to the works of the large Algero-Tunisian joint commission.

President Chadli also received Mr Isidoro Malmierca, Cuban minister for external relations.

Foreign Ministers' Second Meeting

LD220514 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Current international issues dominated the second working session today between the Algerian and Cuban delegations led by Ministers of Foreign Affairs Taleb Ibrahimi and Isidoro Malmierca. The head of Cuban foreign affairs was moreover received this afternoon by the president of the People's National Assembly Mr Bitat, with whom he discussed, among other things, relations between the Algerian and Cuban parliaments.

LIBYA

People Ready To 'Transfer Battle' to U.S., UK

LD211756 Tripoli JANA in English 1710 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, Sha'ban 21, may 21, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — *AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR* newspaper published by the revolutionary committees has warned today the American and British Governments and their agent reactionary regimes of the consequences of their imperialist threats and provocations against the Jamahiriyah confirming that the revolutionary committees are in constant readiness to executive the death sentence and transfer the battle into these countries which feed terrorism.

The paper reviewed in the editorial article headed "He Who Warns is Excused," the terrorist plans conpired by these colonial and reactionary regimes against the Jamahiriyah. It pointed in this respect to what the British newspaper *MAIL ON SUNDAY* published last week, that the British Government was studying a military plan of aggression against the Jamahiriyah involving naval and air forces under the cover of rescuing the British citizens and this plan was presented in fact to Thatcher by the British war ministry last Sunday.

The paper added that the Hashemite royal regime and 'Arafat's clique are completely engaged in preparing assassination and sabotage operations in the Jamahiriyah and they are training 150 Palestinians for this purpose in a camp near Az-Zarqa by four Jordanian brigadiers and a senior Palestinian officer from 'Arafat's clique and the director of 'Arafat's Fatah organization office in Amman.

The paper explained that in addition to this and what had happened two weeks ago when a terrorist group infiltrated the Jamahiriyah to carry out operations of assasination and sabotage of the people's production and marketing establishments did not raise the anger of the American Government and its artificial zeal, of course, on international law and similar terms use by its propaganda media. [sentence as received] The paper said that only one thing which had raised the anger of the American Government and let it to cry for the international law, peace and security was the decision of the Basic People's Congresses on their emergency meeting about chasing and liquidating all terrorist elements of stray dogs who hang around brothels of the Western colonial countries and reactionary Arab countries and are trained under supervision of the agents of these countries on infiltration into the Jamahiriyah and sabotage its civilized achievements and undermining the people's authority.

AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR went on its editorial article to say: Any aggressive action against the Libyan Arab people, and what is being prepared in fact today secretly and openly, is not terrorism in the view of the American Government, but, when the Libyan Arab people defend their authority and revolutionary achievements and decide to eliminate all those who obstruct their civilized march, this then becomes terrorism in the eyes of the Amerian black house.

The paper confirmed: Any rational person cannot give an ear to what the American officials, who have been for long involved in contradictory statements, do and say. The American Government seizes every opportunity to claim its deep concern about international law, while it is the first to breach it when the matter is related to its colonial ambitions, suffice it to point out that the American Government refused in the last few days to obey the U.N. World Court of Justice decision, in The Hague condemning the American acts against Nicaragua, which called Reagan's government to stop immediately the mining of the ports in this country which pursues a free national policy.

The paper asserted that America turns things upside down when it explains things and looks at them with bias from the point of view of its imperialist selfish interests. It considers aggressive designs against the Jamahiriyah, revolutionary regimes and world liberation movements a legal act, while the act by these regimes and revolutionary movements to defend themselves and extend moral and material support to each other, an act of terrorism that should be penalized in every way from launching a propaganda campaign and imposing comprehensive economic sanctions to direct military intervention.

The paper explained that when the Libyan Arab people decided in its Basic People's Congresses to chase and liqudate all terrorist elements of stray dogs everywhere who aimed at the people's authority, were fully aware of the fact that this decision would not please the leader of international terrorism because in fact it embraces, trains and supplies with money and weapons these stray saboteurs to use them at the end to achieve its colonial aims and dreams of returning to the Libyan Arab territory to establish its military bases and dominate it and allow American cowboys to wander about on the streets of Tripoli with arrogance and delusive of obeyed masters, the same way they were before the rise of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution. The Libyan Arab people were fully aware that the deciison of the Basic People's Congresses to chase and liquidate all stray terrorist elements would not please the American Government and colonial allies because America has been leading widescale terrorist and aggressive moves involving Britain, right wing 'Arafat's clique, the Jordanian and Sudanese regimes and some other Arab reactionary regimes to attack the people's authority in the Jamahiriyah which has become the lighthouse of guidance for the weak people who strive for ultimate salvation and a strong fortress for all fighters who confront imperialists, oppressors and people's hangmen.

The paper confirmed that when the Libyan Arab people decided through its Basic People's Congresses to chase and liquidate the fugitive and stray terrorist elements who aimed to hit the civilized achievements realised by streams of sweat were applying in fact, an important clause of international law provisions, the people's right to defend their freedom, territories and achievements.

AZ-ZAHF AL-AKHDAR concluded its editorial by saying that the revolutionary committees warn the American Government, Britain and their agent reactionary regimes of the consequences of imperialist threats and provocations and deliberate propaganda against the Jamahiriyah reaffirming that they are in constant readiness to execute the death sentence and transfer the battle inside these countries which feed terrorism and cut off its limbs and run over its injured bodies as he who warns is excused.

At-Turayki on Support for Lebanon's Al-Jumayyil

NC220951 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] In a statement he made to the *AN-NAHAR* newspaper, Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Dr 'Ali Abd as-Salam at-Turayki has said that his country supports President al-Jumayyil and his government and appreciates the national decision he and the Lebanese nationalist forces made when they abrogated the 17 May agreement.

Dr at-Turayki added: We shall work with all our strength to achieve peace and stop the bloodshed in Lebanon. He said: We constantly tell our friends and allies — the Lebanese nationalist and political forces with whom we have relations — of the need to cooperate with President al-Jumayyil and to achieve national reconciliation on a firm and just basis so that all of Lebanon can stand as one rank in the face of the Zionist occupation of a large part of Lebanese territory.

The Libyan foreign minister pointed out that an invitation has been extended to him to visit Lebanon and expressed the hope that his visit will take place at the earliest possible date.

Meets Syrian, PDRY Counterparts

LD190854 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0722 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tunis, 19 May — (JANA) — The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison yesterday met in Tunis with the foreign ministers of Syria and the PDRY. Discussions during the meeting covered the coordination of stands toward the numerous issues to be raised at the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Departs After Talks

LD181808 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Dr Ibrahim Gambari, Nigerian foreign minister, left Tripoli this morning at the end of a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah within the framework of bilateral cooperation between the Jamahiriyah and Nigeria, during which he conducted a series of talks on the strengthening of this cooperation in a manner that would fulfill the interests of the Libyan Arab and Nigerian people.

PDRY Foreign Minister ad-Dali Arrives 21 May

LD220912 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1925 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Tripoli, 21 May — PDRY Foreign Minister Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz ad-Dali arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

Congolese Agriculture Minister Arrives 16 May

AB170840 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Marius Mouambenga, Congolese minister of agriculture and livestock, arrived in Nouakchott yesterday evening. He brought a message from President Denis Sassou-Nguesso of Congo to the head of state and was welcomed by the minister of energy and water supply.

Joint Commission Session With Romania Opens

AB171730 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0700 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The Romanian-Mauritanian Joint Commission of Cooperation yesterday afternoon ended its first ordinary session, which began in Nouakchott last Sunday. The Mauritanian side was presided over by Captain Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, and the Romanian side by Marin Capisizu, secretary of state for food industry.

During the closing session, the two ministers signed a document defining the areas of cooperation, and the provisions made by the two sides in the agreement which stresses the commitment of both sides to use every possible means to strengthen this cooperation. Furthermore, the Romanian side informed the Mauritanian delegation of Bucharest's decision to help our country, through financial assistance, to drill boreholes. A Romanian drilling crew is expected in Nouakchott on 15 June to carry out this project.

The commission also discussed cooperation in the scientific and commercial fields, as well as rural development, higher education, mining, and sports. The Romanian side pledged to examine all these aspects as far as it can, the report added. Positive results (?are expected), as the two heads of delegations stated. They left Nouakchott yesterday afternoon for Nouadhibou, where they will visit fishing facilities before the Romanian delegation departs for home.

MOROCCO

'Authorized Source' Denies El Aaiun Destroyed

LD211303 Rabat Map in English 1221 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Rabat, May 21 (MAP) — A Moroccan authorized source categorically denied Saturday the allegations spread from Algiers and according to which the Polisario mercenaries (an Algerian-backed guerilla movement claiming sovereignty over the Moroccan Sahara) would have attacked and destroyed the terminal of El Aaiun Port, Moroccan Sahara.

"The mercenaries, badly in need of publicity since the Royal Armed Forces finished edifying the defense wall in the Sahara, are trying to attract the international opinion's attention by a feat of arms that only exists in their own imagination," the same sources pointed out.

On the other hand, local authorities in El Aaiun affirmed to "MAP" in a telephone call that "such claims of the mercenaries are mere phantasies revealing their confusion and despair since the completion of the defense wall."

A Moroccan military source in El Aaiun on its part recalled that the Royal Armed Forces are watching over all points of the Saharan provinces along the defense wall as well as off the Saharan coasts where the Royal Navy is ensuring a continuous watch. "This pretentious information is not worth paying attention to, everybody being able to realize the quietude and security prevailing over the whole territory of the Saharan provinces," the same source concluded.

King Hassan Jerusalem Day Speech 18 May

LD191002 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 19 May 84

[Speech by King Hassan II on occasion of Jerusalem Day 18 May — place not specified; live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Thanks be to God, prayers and peace upon the messenger of God and on his family and companions.

My dear people, brother Muslims: At the last meeting of the Jerusalem Committee in Fes, which was formed by the Islamic Conference, it was decided that 18 May will be marked every year as Jerusalem Day. This anniversary is actually merely symbolic. This is because Jerusalem is always in our hearts and before our eyes morning and evening, every day, every week, every month, and every year.

God Almighty says in His illustrious book: But teach thy message. Teaching benefits the believers. Let us look quickly, dear people, to past epochs in order to see how Jerusalem slipped out of our hands and became occupied. This was in 1967. A fierce and disgraceful war took place. In 1 day it took away holy Jerusalem and the West Bank from Jordan, the Golan from Syria, and Sinai and Gaza from Egypt.

We thought and still think that the causes which led to that disaster had waned and disappeared with the passage of years, and we also used to think that the spirit of arrogance, hegemony, trusteeship, and restriction had gone and vanished from our Arab homelands and countries so that any one who screamed or became angry or laughed would not believe that one's scream, anger, or laugh is meant for all Arabs from the Maghreb to the Mashriq.

Regrettably, we did not draw the moral and positive aspects from the lessons. And now, as far as Morocco is concerned, 2 days ago we saw another hegemony, another trusteeship, and another restriction trying to dominate the situation, trying to install itself as the living conscience of the Islamic and Arab states.

It must be said that Morocco's obligations are not without design nor circumstantial. When Morocco is committed to something, it first analyzes the elements of its commitment. And then it calculates the consequences and the things that may result from the commitment. It is aware of the fact that every commitment, whether bilateral or collective, requires from all the parties concerned a voluntary loss of some sovereignty so that the commitment becomes complete and comprehensive.

Morocco exercises full sovereignty. It holds on its own territory whichever conference it wants to hold. It has the right to invite Moroccans wherever they may be, and it has the right to invite Moroccan Jews wherever they may be. The important thing is that Morocco, during that conference — which was not the first — but was a conference which fell within Morocco's general freedom. [sentence as heard] Perhaps, this utterance is not known to some states in the East, and we have not known for many years that is was within the framework of our general freedoms. During that conference, Morocco said nothing to harm the Arab issue. Morocco took no commitment upon itself, nor was Morocco unfaithful to any of its commitments. Indeed, Morocco believes that through such conferences it is immortalizing the Arab cause.

Those who today want to encroach on Morocco are those who know well what we told them recently, and this was conveyed to them through their envoys and ministers. Despite all the diplomatic and political (?initiatives) which Morocco will embark upon, you will find Morocco to be faithful to the pledge, as was the case in the past. I will not say the first shot if need be will come from a Moroccan rifle. You will find that in the first rank or the second rank there will be a Moroccan officer or soldier. Despite this — and this is the first commitment — Morocco will sacrifice everything it holds dear to arrive at the desired objective. Anything else is left to the sovereignty of any Arab state and in no way can anyone take us back to the era of the late Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, who used to impose what he wanted on whomever he wanted — excerpt for Morocco.

This is a reminder, first about Morocco's [word indistinct] and its commitments and Morocco's (?use) and respect for its commitments. It is also a reminder of the mistakes and the misrepresentations and falsifications which led the Arab and Islamic world to the catastrophe of Jerusalem, and I do not include the Golan, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or Sinai.

Let us then go into the accomplishments with regard to Jerusalem. As I told you, Jerusalem does not need 18 May to be Jerusalem Day. Jerusalem Day is every day in the hearts of Moroccans and Muslims.

In the past meeting of the Jerusalem Committee, my dear people, you saw in the hands of our brother the PLO chairman, Yasir 'Arafat, a map of Jerusalem showing what has already been destroyed and what is being destroyed, and the schemes which are directed against Jerusalem, its sacred position and its Arab character.

It is true that Jerusalem could be a lighthouse for all those who worship God, for all those who believe in Judaism, Christianity, or Islam. We have to convince everybody, especially non-Muslims, that the question of Jerusalem is not a question of an Arab-Israeli conflict; it is a question of an Islamic-Christian-Zionist conflict. It is therefore a question of distinguishing between what is right and what is wrong.

As you know, my dear people, the man who is talking to you today is greatly honored to be chairman of the Jerusalem Committee, and his chairmanship has been renewed three times. As I told you, my dear people, when I was talking about the commitments and about the sufferings which stem from them: What is good for you is good for your servant [the king]. Before accepting the first chairmanship and accepting the renewal two or three times, I was assessing, mentally and demagogically, the responsibility. At that time I had two choices: whether to accept the chairmanship, knowing that it would restrict my hand, knowing that it would to some extent reduce my freedom of movement and hence Moroccan foreign policy's freedom of movement. But there is a difference between freedom of movement and quality of movement. If this chairmanship was first [words indistinct] to restrict to some extent the freedom of movement, it will not stop us from extinguishing the quality of movement. Quality of movement is left to our consciences. Quality of action is left to our consciences. But defining the goal is not left to our consciences. For the moral goal there is no place for any [word indistinct] or any comment. There is only one goal and it is known.

I hope, my dear people, that you have understood the speech, and I hope that all our brothers of the Muslim family have also understood it. I hope that we will turn another page. I hope this will be the first Jerusalem Day in which all of us in the Islamic family will start a new book with sacred white pages.

SUDAN

Numayri Interviewed on Domestic, Foreign Topics

PM211412 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 13 May 84 pp 6, 7

[Interview with President Ja'far Numayri by Ayman Habib in Khartoum on 9 May]

[Excerpts] [Habib] What is the truth about the application of Islamic shari'a law in Sudan?

[Numayri] Actually, some newspapers convey this step as something of an untimely shock, a measure taken without any regard for the current circumstances. In fact, an Arabic newspaper published in an Islamic country, the Kuwaiti *AL-WATAN*, says that Islamic shari'a in Sudan is tantamount to a provocation by the north against the south and that it is an unsuccessful attempt to solve internal problems. Another paper sees the application of the Islamic shari'a as a sign or a result of the weakness of the Sudanese regime. I excuse these people because they do not know Sudan well.

While here in Sudan we see this step as a natural development, others abroad view it with blind eyes and deaf ears. Visitors who come to Sudan begin their visits with a sense of anxiety and caution and end them with a sense of disappointment because the picture they see here in reality is one of complete stability, not instability as the Arab press claims. How can there be change without stability? The internal situation is good and the security situation is excellent, but this does not mean that we should not be alert. Our enemies have not concealed their hostility toward Sudan, the Muslim Arab and African country which rejects communism and Marxism and which is the first defense for the Red Sea states and other states beyond.

[Habib] How will these things reflect on your country's foreign policy, and will Sudan reassess its foreign relations?

[Numayri] Our foreign policy is based on fixed principles. We do not antagonize anyone, but we also do not tolerate aggression against us by anyone. We are against polarization, hegemony, and alignment except to our principles. We are with our Arab nation in its just struggle for the restoration of its rights. We support the African Continent against Soviet hegemonic attempts and against racial discrimination. We are all for regional cooperation and integration. We are against blocs for or against anyone. Despite all this, or rather because of it, we realize we are exposed to aggression, subversion, and even invasion. Sudan is the only remaining obstacle in the way of communist and Soviet infiltration of East Africa, across the Red Sea, and then across the Nile into Egypt.

[Habib] The recent government changes, the declaration of a state of emergency, and the general military mobilization have caught the media's attention. What is the real situation? Are these changes the result of any serious political developments or developments affecting internal security and are they connected with the exclusion of seven important ministers from the cabinet?

[Numaryi] There are two sides to the question. I will answer it as follows: First of all, Sudan is faced with foreign aggression which constitutes a threat to its national security and territorial integrity. It is an open threat and its aim is clearly to impose Marxism-Leninism on southern Sudan as a step toward imposing it on all Sudan. The terrorist organization led by John Garang in southern Sudan has said so frankly. Marxist Ethiopia has, for example, set up bases on Ethiopian territory adjacent to Sudan for the Marxist terrorists to launch their operations from and to return to. Great development projects in southern Sudan, such as the oil projects and the Jonglei Canal, have been attacked. The same groups have threatened to sabotage development projects in the north.

Pockets of the Marxist plot which started in some southern areas are trying to infiltrate the north through the remnants of the Sudanese Communist Party in order to operate among the workers and instigate them to stop work and paralyze the country's economy. The capital was the target of an air raid on the radio station which resulted in some casualties and damage to property. In addition to all that and under the same plan there has been active smuggling of foodstuffs from Sudan to Ethiopia and of alcoholic drinks, which are now banned in Sudan, from Ethiopia to Sudan. Does this not call for a state of emergency which in actual fact means the quick settling of plotting, smuggling, and corruption cases with complete adherence to the rule of the law? The law commits the president of the republic, after declaration of a state of emergency, to report to the National People's Assembly within 2 weeks from the date of that declaration. I did that within 3 days of the declaration and now I await the assembly's decision to lift or confirm the state of emergency.

The second part of the answer concerns the cabinet changes. The question here is whether every stage requires its own men, and furthermore, whether public posts are sacrosanct and immune to change of leadership. Government changes in Sudan are a continuous process. As long as Sudan moves and develops, every stage will require its own men, as I have said.

[Habib] Some people have interpreted the changes as an attempt to nip in the bud possible threats in Sudan.

[Numayri] There are possible dangers. The source of such dangers is foreign plotting, which above all threatens our national unity. It is a serious threat because it stems not from within but from a superpower and other states subservient to it. They finance and arm the Marxists while Ethiopia gives them bases on Ethiopian territory. The decisive steps, alertness, and preparations are naturally preventive measures.

[Habib] Mr President, the question now is what next. What will happen after these changes?

[Numayri] What follows these measures? More of the same until the Islamic course is consolidated, until the threat to our national unity is eliminated, until all signs of corruption, lethargy, and smuggling disappear, and until all disregard for the Islamic shari'a ends.

[Habib] What about Sudan's relations with the Gulf states in general and Saudi Arabia in particular? Some people claim these relations between Sudan and some of its brothers are cool. How true is this and why are they cool?

[Numayri] Sudan's relations with the Saudi Kingdom are beter than excellent because Saudi Arabia is the pioneer of Islamic law enforcement and because it is the land of the holy shrines. Our system, laws, and society are geared toward fulfillment of a sound Islamic course. Our relations with the Gulf states are just as strong. The talk about cool relations is tendentious and false. Our relations with the Gulf states are excellent, as I have said, and our role in support of Iraq against Iranian aggression — support with men and blood — provides the evidence that we support the sovereignty of that region and the defense of its Arabism.

[Habib] some people believe that armament and military allocations are claiming a major part of Sudan's budget. In view of the tension between Sudan and its enemies, is military expenditure likely to increase even more or are there other plans?

[Numayri] As I have said previously, Sudan is the Red Sea's first defense line against Soviet hegemony and onslaught. This is Sudan's destiny because of its position, resources, and ability to influence others. Sudan is coveted and therefore threatened, and because it is threatened it must be able to defend itself.

Your question is actually whether or not the defense allocations are at the expense of development. I ask you: Can there be any development in the absence of defense?

[Habib] The general Arab situtiion seems to be going from bad to worse, carrying with it the grave danger of Arab disintegration. In view of this, do you believe it would be useful to convene the already postponed Arab summit conference?

[Numayri] The Arab world is suffering more from inability to identify the dangers surrounding it than from tension as such. Is there a greater danger than the occuaption of a nation's territory by a usurping and alien enemy which is Israel and the threat to an entire sovereigh Arab state, which is Iraq, by a spiteful foe? The Arab nation is doing nothing about the Israeli threat, other than issuing statements of condemnation, and is doing nothing about the Iranian threat other than appealing to the Iranian regime to stop its aggression while Iraqi blood is being spilled and its resources exhausted. After the West Bank and Gaza, Israel has moved into Lebanon. Iran will move across and beyond Iraq to its neighbors. Israel wants to build a greater Jewish state, and Iran wants to restore its lost Persian empire, both at the expense of the Arab nation. Arab solidarity is the solution, but I do not believe that summit conferences and urgent resolutions by them are the way to achieve it. As brothers we must agree in our diagnosis and identification of the danger. Once that is done we would not need summit conferences or resolutions to face it.

Explains Martial Courts' Formation

JN191144 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Kassala, 19 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has announced that the laws of the regular forces, prison laws, and the laws of the People's Armed Forces are currently being revised to make them conform with the shari'a and the objectives for which they were made.

Addressing the officers, NCO's, and lower ranking personnel in the police and prison forces here yesterday, Numayri explained that the regular forces are the basis of security and stability, and that the laws of the Armed Forces and the state of emergency allow for martial courts to be promptly formed in the field to try those who neglect their duties. The president asserted these courts must issue deterrent sentences. He added that these courts will be comprised of three officers. Their sentences will be removal of ranks and dimissal from post first, followed by the punishment issued by the court.

Speaks on Future Prosperity

JN192010 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1730 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has expressed his complete confidence that Sudan will achieve the type of life that provides luxuries for the workers, in order to encourage them to work at all times. He said that this was needed to utilize the potential and resources of the country, of which only about 10 percent is presently utilized. This 10 percent is owned by individuals, groups, and the state. He said that the other 90 percent, if utilized, would provide employment for every person in the world. He expressed optimism that Sudan will answer the world's food and shelter shortages at the end of this century. In this context, he pointed out that Sudan's resources can support 2 billion persons.

This came in the president's speech to the representatives of the delegations participating in the fourth general conference of the Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions, when he received them this morning. Also present at the meeting were Muhammad 'Uthman Abu Saq, secretary of the SSU organizations committee, and 'Abdallah Nasr Qanawi, president of the Federation of Sudanese Trade Unions.

The president added that Sudan encourages increased births. The president will present a gold medal to those with more than nine children, a silver medal for seven, and a bronze medal for five children. He said that Sudan encourages raising children.

The president said that the revolution, in a short period of time, has been able to raise the standard of living and life expectancy in Sudan. Average life expectancy has increased to 50 years instead of 41 before the revolution. Health care and good living have been provided for children, and deaths among them have decreased. The president expressed hope that life expectancy in Sudan would increase to 55 or 60 years.

Comments on Law

JN191952 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1812 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has said the sword will continue to be drawn on corruption and the corrupt who were arrested and brought to trial for accumulating wealth worth millions of pounds by unlawful means and for ruining Sudan's economy.

Addressing the representatives of the delegations attending the fourth congress of the Sudanese Federation of Trade Unions when he received them this morning, the president affirmed that the state of emergency law, which certain media outside Sudan have said is being used to butcher people on the streets, has been promulgated to facilitate the adoption of quick decisions for the benefit of the citizens. His excellency said that the declaration of the state of emergency, law and order are maintained by only 50 percent of the forces — men who do not carry arms, ammunition, or explosives.

President Numayri said that Sudan is fighting because it has pursued the course of Islam. He pointed out that the second volume of the Islamic Court which he has written will be issued in the next 10 or 15 days. This volume, he said, contains a great deal of information which will benefit those liars who say that Sudan is ruled by a dictator — Numayri, who is backed by the United States and the West.

His excellency said: We respect those who respect us, appreciate those who appreciate us, befriend those who befriend us, and antagonize those who antagonize us and interfere in our affairs.

His excellency affirmed that the workers hold most of the authority in running the country. His excellency thanked the heads of the delegations for attending the congress and asked them to convey the greetings of the Sudanese people and workers to their peoples.

His excellency gave the Iraqi representative to the congress a special message for Iraqi President Saddam Husayn in which he affirmed Sudan's support and belief that Iraq can check any aggressor in the region. The president also asked the Romanian representative to convey his greetings to President Nicolae Ceausescu, affirming Sudan and Romania are working for peace in the Middle East and the world. The president said Sudan's objective is to achieve security, peace, and stability.

The representatives of the Iraqi, Romanian, U.S., FRG, Arab Labor Organization, and the International Labor Organization made statements in which they expressed their thanks and appreciation to President Numayri for his interest in the labor movement in Sudan. They wished him progress and prosperity.

Orders Liquor Destroyed

JN191028 Khartoum SUNA in English 0930 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Khartoum, 19 May (SUNA) — President Numayri yesterday decreed the destruction of all quantities of liquor stored at Port Sudan harbour.

The liquor of an estimated value of more than LS 14 million belongs to the duty-free shops corporation, some foreign embassies, some corporations and individuals. The quantities arrived to the port after the new penal code was issued last September, SUNA learned. The destruction was decreed following some delay in the returning of the liquor to the source of importation, and leakage of some quantities to consumers inside the country.

TUNISIA

Bourguiba Meets With PRC Vice Premier Li Peng

LD212142 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpt] President Habib Bourguiba and his wife received at their residence in Hammamat this morning Mr Li Peng, Chinese vice premier, who is visiting Tunisia within the context of relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. The meeting was attended by Premier and Interior Minister Mohamed Mzali; Sadok Ben Jomaa, public works minister; Ahmad Ben Arfah, secretary of state at the Foreign Ministry in charge of international cooperation; and the PRC ambassador in Tunisia. After the meeting the Chinese vice premier said that he extended to his excellency the president the greetings of Chinese officials led by [name indistinct], chairman of the Advisory Committee of the CPC Central Committee, and Li Xiannian, PRC president, and that he extended to President Habib Bourguiba the greetings of the widow of the late Chinese leader Zhou Enlai, adding that his excellency the president asked him to extend his greetings to Deng Xiaoping and the Chinese president.

Inspect Canal Project

LD212135 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Excerpts] Today President Habib Bourguiba embarked on a working and inspection tour of Nabil Province, during which he will see the economic and social achievement in Tunisia's south, part of the province's comprehensive development. He and his wife arrived at (?Jdid) Hotel in the company of Mohamed Mzali, premier and interior minister. The president shook hands with those who were on hand to welcome him among them Mahmud al-Messadi, president of the Chamber of Deputies, Li Peng, Chinese vice premier, members of the Cabinet and Political Bureau of the Destouri Socialist Party, and the assistant general manager of the Saudi Development Fund.

His excellency the president of the republic unveiled a marble plaque for the Mejerda-Tunisia South Canal Project and cut the symbolic ribbon for the canal's pumping station. Inside the station his excellency was briefed on this project by Sadok Ben Jomaa, minister of public works, who noted that this economic and civil achievement will be linked with the name of the great struggler, pioneer of comprehensive progress in Tunisia, and praised the fruitful cooperation between Tunisia and the PRC.

In an address to the great struggler and his wife, Li Peng, Chinese vice premier, congratulated Tunisia's president, government, and people on this huge achievement and expressed his pleasure at sharing the Tunisian people's celebration on this happy occasion.

His excellency the president decorated the Chinese vice premier with the highest grade of the republic's medal. Then his excellency the president pressed a button which brought water gushing into the canal, heralding the start of the irrigation of south Tunisia's orchards.

Mejerda-Tunisia South, which is 120 km long, was built within the context of economic and technical cooperation between Tunisia and the PRC. It will carry 470 million cubic meters of water a year from the Sidi Salim Dam, Jumin Dam, [word indistinct] Dam and Sidi al-Barraq Dam. The canal, which annually pumps 163 million cubic meters, of which 77 million cubic meters is used for the protection of 7,500 hectares of citrus fruit, will supply Tunis, south Tunisia, the coast, and Sfax with drinking water. The project cost 50 million dinars.

WESTERN SAHARA

Statement Reports 15 May Destruction of El Aaiun

LD191011 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Naval units of the Saharan Liberation Army have launched a successful attack against El Aaiun port.

According to a statement issued by the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic Information Ministry on Friday, on 15 May Saharan naval units completely destroyed El Aaiun port and installations. The statement said that the operation took place on the eve of the celebration of the 11th anniversary of the start of the armed struggle for national liberation to affirm the Saharan people's determination. They will continue their legitimate struggle until the final victory.

The statement affirmed the 15 May operation should prove to the Moroccan king that his military escalation, with the support of the United States and another imperialist power, can only lead to increasing the gravity of the conflict.

The statement warned all companies operating on the Saharan coast, as well as tourists, of the consequences of the risk of associating with the Moroccan aggressor, because the 15 May operation will not be the last while the Moroccan regime persists with its aggression against the Saharan people and the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Denounces King Hassan Speech

LD201115 Algiers APS in Arabic 0800 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Algiers, 20 May (APS) — The SDAR minister of foreign affairs, commenting on the speech delivered by King Hassan II on Jerusalem Day, denounced its contents, saying in particular: Here is King Hassan II confessing his treachery to the Arab nation's issue and the values of Islam and Muslims, in the same way as his predecessor As-Sadat. Thus and under cover of Moroccan sovereignty, the king is justifying his vile crime — the selling of Jerusalem and consequently the selling of the Arab issue in exhchange for the support of the United States and world Zionism for him and their blessing of the freedom of expansion against a small, Muslim, Arab neighboring people, that is, the Western Saharan people.

It becomes clear from this statement that all Arabs and Muslims were surprised at the Zionist agent king's attack on the spirit of the late Jamal 'Abd an-Nasir, and on Syria, the fortress of resistance and [word indistinct] with queries regarding the fate of Moroccan sovereignty after its transformation into a U.S. military base and a nest placed by the Moroccan king at the service of professional Zionist politicians.

Arabs and Muslims as a whole condemn this kind of mean and base haggling on the part of an alleged sovereignty, especially when the issue is concerned with the selling of the right of others — specifically the value of a nation and the fate of a resisting and heroic people.

Finally, the statement stresses the Saharan Muslim Arab people are fully aware that the traitor Hassan II's hypocrisy and perversion will never fool Arabs and Muslims.

ETHIOPIA

Eritreans Destroy 30 Ethiopian Aircraft in Attack

NC211930 Paris AFP in English 1927 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Paris, May 21 (AFP) — Eritrean guerrillas destroyed more than 30 Ethiopian Air Force aircraft in a major attack during last night on the airfield at Asmara, the Eritrean capital, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) said here today. A statement issued in Paris by the EPLF "Central Bureau for Foreign Relations" said the commando operation began at 11.45 p.m. local on Sunday night and was completed by 1.00 a.m. today.

According to the statement, special EPLF units got into the base under covering artillery fire and used rocket launchers, automatic rifles and hand grenades to destroy aircraft on the ground. Planes destroyed included 16 MIG-23 and MIG-21 fighters, six MI-24 helicopter gunships, two Antonov bombers, two jet transports and four unidentified aircraft. Light from the blazing ammunition and fuel depots blazed through the night, lighting up the nearby town of Asmara, the statement said.

Destroy Asmara Airbase

EA212133 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Jidda, 21 May (SPA) — 'Uthman Muhammad 'Umar, representative of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Eritrea, told SPA that units of the Popular Army for the Liberation of Eritrea, armed with Kalashnikovs and RPG's attacked, at 2345 yesterday under the cover of heavy-weapons fire, the air base in the capital Asmara, the only base in Eritrea from which Ethiopian fighter and passenger planes take off. The spokesman added that in this operation 16 MIG-23 and MIG-21 plane, 6 M-24 helicopter gunships, two Antonov airplanes and two passenger planes were destroyed. The base was totally destroyed in addition to the fuel depot and the spare-parts depot. 'Uthman Muhammad 'Umar ended his statement by pointing out that this military action was one of the most brilliant and greatest operations in the history of the Eritrean revolution.

Cuban Central Committee Member Del Valle Makes Visit

Meets Mengistu

EA182043 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1700 GMT 18 May 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam, Provisional Military Administrative Council and COPWE chairman, commander in chief of the Revolutionary Armed Forces, and current chairman of the OAU, today held talks at his COPWE office with Comrade Sergio del Valle, member of the Cuban Communist Party Central Committee Politburo, member of the Cuban Council, and minister of public health. On the occasion, our comrade revolutionary leader briefed Comrade del Valle on the progress of the Ethiopian revolution, and on future tasks to be implemented in all sectors. He stressed that revolutionary Cuba is a friendly socialist country that has substantially contributed toward making our revolution capable of winning numerous fruitful victories. Comrade Chairman Mengistu also briefed the Cuban minister of health on the current situation in Africa.

Replying, Comrade del Valle said that during his tour he was able to see that the Ethiopian revolution has now arrived at a secure stage after toppling feudalism. He assured our comrade revolutionary leader that even now revolutionary Cuba will not hesitate to do all in its power to promote the progress of the Ethiopian revolution.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

EA201511 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in Amharic 1000 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] Socialist Ethiopia and Cuba today signed a 2-year scientific, economic, and technical cooperation agreement at the end of the joint commission's fifth meeting, led by Comrade Addis Tedla, Provisional Military Administrative Council Standing Committee member, deputy chairman of the National Development Campaign, and Central Planning Supreme Council, and COPWE Executive Committee member, on behalf of Socialist Ethiopia. Comrade Dr Sergio del Valle, member of the Cuban Communist Party Political Bureau, member of the Cuban Council, and minister of health, signed on behalf of revolutionary Cuba.

In a speech at the ceremony, Comrade Addis pointed out that the agreement will strengthen existing relations and will be held in high esteem, since it has been signed on the eve of forming the Ethiopian workers party. He expressed his belief that this will provide a firm base for the strong relations that will continue to exist between the two countries' governments and parties.

For his part Comrade Dr Sergio del Valle pointed out that the agreement will contribute to the 10 year development plan that Socialist Ethiopia is implementing, and gave the assurance that he will do his best for its implementation.

Under the agreement, which was signed at the National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council Hall, the Cuban Government will supply experts in education, health, agriculture, industry, construction, water development, and manpower training. It will also supply free assistance and include the exchange of scientific and technical documents.

KENYA

Tanzanian President Kaunda Arrives 20 May

EA201543 Nairobi KNA in English 1318 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Nairobi, May 20 — The Zambian head of state, President Kenneth Kaunda, has arrived in Nairobi to attend the inauguration of the new United Nations accommodation, which will be performed by President Moi tomorrow. On arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, President Kaunda was accorded a red carpet welcome by his host, president Daniel arap Moi.

Departs Following Ceremony

EA212110 Nairobi KNA in English 1452 GMT 21 May 84

[Summary] Nairobi, May 21 — President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia left Kenya this afternoon after addressing the inaugural ceremony of the United Nations complex at Giriri, Nairobi.

USSR Envoy Calls on Foreign Ministry Official

EA171404 Nairobi KNA in English 1607 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] Nairobi, May 17 (KNA) — The settlement of the assets and liabilities of the defunct East African Community, together with the mutual understanding between Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda and the reopening of the Kenya-Tanzania border has been highly commended by the Soviet people and government.

This was stated today by the Ambassador of the USSR, Mr A.D. Chikvaidze, when he paid a courtesy call on an assistant minister for foreign affairs, Prof Paul M. Sumbi.

The ambassador, who had called to hand over a communication from his government to Kenya, held an hour-long meeting with the assistant minister on bilateral African, international, and regional matters.

During the meeting, Prof Sumbi noted that relations between Kenya and the USSR, as well as cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic, and social fields, were growing day by day.

He thanked the Soviet Government for offering scholarships to Kenyans to study in the USSR, and observed that most of those trained in the Soviet Union had returned home and joined other Kenyans in the task of developing the nation. He appealed to the Soviet Government to increase scholarships, so that a greater number of Kenyans could obtain higher education qualifications which the Kenyan nation requires for rapid development.

The ambassador thanked Kenya for the cooperation in the economic field, and said that a high-powered Soviet delegation led by a minister would soon be arriving in Kenya for discussions on further areas of cooperation. He briefed the assistant minister on his country's future plans regarding cooperation with Kenya.

The meeting was attended by the head of Europe and Commonwealth Division in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr J.D. Odede, and other senior officials of the ministry and the embassy.

TANZANIA

Ugandan National Army Kills 'Bandit' Leader

EA191919 Dar Es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Tororo: One of the chief bandits by the name of (Odoy Chwale) has been killed after an exchange of fire with Ugandan National Liberation Army soldiers at the eastern border town of Tororo. (Odoy Chwale), a lawyer and former Democratic Party contestant for the Tororo South Central Parliamentary seat in the December 1980 general election in Uganda, went to the bush immediately after the elections.

He entered Uganda last Saturday through Kenya with the intention to set up bandit camps in Tororo area, but security forces (?ambushed and killed) him today. (Odoy Chwale) was found with a list of names of top persons in Tororo area whom he intended to murder in 1983, a Ugandan passport with only Kenya's (?entrance) stamped on it, and other important documents.

Speaking to UGANDA NEWS AGENCY, a top security official reiterated the government's strong commitment to root out acts of banditry throughout Uganda.

Nigerian Foreign Minister Gambari Makes 2-Day Visit

Arrives, Speaks to Press

EA202102 Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1700 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] Dar es Salaam: · Ibrahim Gambari, Nigerian foreign minister, arrived in Dar es Salaam today, beginning a visit to the frontline states. The minister told newsmen soon after his arrival that he brought a special message to President Nyerere from the Nigerian leader, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Mr Gambari said he has come to Tanzania to get further details on the peace agreement signed a few months ago between Mozambique and the Boer regime of South Africa. He also said he wants to know the outcome of the recent meeting on the future of Namibia held in Lusaka.

Mr Gambari said Nigeria resolutely supports the liberation struggle in Southern Africa. While in the country, Minister Gambari will hold talks with government officials on the liberation struggle in Southern Africa.

Holds Talks

EA212305 Dar Es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1300 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The visiting Nigerian foreign minister, Mr Ibrahim Gambari, today held talks on the liberation of southern Africa with Foreign Minister Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa [name and title as received].

A Foreign Ministry official told newsmen that the ministers also discussed problems facing the OAU, Chad, and Western Sahara. The official said that Mr Gambari, who is here on a 2-day visit, was also expected to meet Prime Minister Ndugu Salim Ahmed Salim. He said the Nigerian minister was due to hold talks with the chairman of the frontline states in the liberation of southern Africa, President Nyerere, and deliver a special message to him from the Nigerian military leader, Major General Muhammadu Buhari.

Mr Gambari is on a 10-day tour of the frontline states in the liberation of southern Africa to discuss the situation with their leaders. The minister will also visit Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Czechoslovakia's Chnoupek Ends 5-Day Visit

Communique Issued

LD181912 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Czechoslovakia has pledged continued support for the armed liberation struggle in southern Africa and the frontline states. The pledge is contained in a joint communique issued at the end of a 5-day official visit to Tanzania by the Czechoslovak foreign minister, Ndugu Bohuslav Chnoupek.

The communique said during the talks between Ndugu Chnoupek and the minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa, the two ministers urged progressive countries in the world to lend effective assistance to liberation movements in Namibia and South Africa. The communique said the two sides condemned the Bantustanization policy of the Pretoria regime, and expressed serious concern over the deteriorating situation in Western Sahara. They underlined the necessity of finding peaceful solution to the Western Saharan conflict through direct negotiations between the interested parties in accordance with the resolution of the OAU.

On the Middle East the two sides agreed that there cannot be a just and lasting solution to the problem until the rights of the Palestinian people are recognized.

On strengthening the existing cooperation between the two countries, the communique emphasized the need to reactivate and implement the existing cultural and economic cooperation.

The two sides also called for a speedy termination of military action and supported the New Delhi nonaligned conference to end the Iran-Iraq war. On Central America, the communique said the two countries supported efforts by the Contadora Group in finding a peaceful solution to the problems in the region.

Views East-West Relations

EA181913 Nairobi KNA in English 1320 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam, May 28 — Czechoslovakia has said the pulling out of the country and eight others from the Los Angeles summer Olympics would not contribute to the worsening of East-West tension. According to Shihata, the visiting Czechoslovak foreign minister, Bohuslav Chnoupek, told newsmen here today that the hosts, the USA, had not been able to create acceptable conditions to suit sportsmen from the socialist countries.

The Soviet Union, GDR, Czechoslovakia, Mongolia, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Laos, Poland, and Bulgaria have announced their pullout from the games.

Turning to East-West relations, the foreign minister said unless efforts were immediately made, relations between the two blocs would not improve. He said his country awaits response by Washington to the proposals made by Warsaw Bloc ministers recently, that the USA should stop deploying missiles in Europe. He said the USA is yet to respond.

Chnoupek leaves Dar Es Salaam today after a five-day official visit to Tanzania.

Foreign Minister Mkapa Receives Iranian Official

EA192039 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: The Iranian deputy minister for international and economic cooperation, Mr Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardabili, is in the country to deliver a special message to president Nyerere from his country's president, Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. A Foreign Ministry official said in Dar es Salaam today that Mr Kazempur, who is leading a four-man delegation, this morning held talks with the minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Benjamin Mkapa. The talks, according to the official, focused on the situation in the Middle East, southern Africa, and relations between Tanzania and the Islamic Republic. According to the official, Ndugu Mkapa and the Iranian Deputy minister exchanged views on strengthening the existing relations between the two countries.

UGANDA

Border Cooperation Talks With Kenya Reported

EA212313 Kampala Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Uganda will continue to cooperate with Kenya to stop gun-running along their common border. This was reaffirmed by the minister of state for defense, Mr Peter Otai, in Nairobi over the weekend. The minister, who was in transit, told newsmen that he concurred with all statements made by the Kenya Government and explanations given by the minister of state in the Office of the President, Mr Ole Tipis, in parliament regarding border relations. He said operations had been carried out by Kenyan and Ugandan security forces along the border because it had been realized that for any operation to succeed on the border, it must be jointly carried out to prevent antisocial elements and gunrunners or cattle-rustlers from fleeing to either side of the border. Mr Otai said the joint operation has been going on and will continue in the mutual interest of the two sister countries.

He disclosed that a lot of guns and cattle had been recovered on both sides. The problem is now to work out a modality that will enable Kenyans and Ugandans who lost their cattle to recover them. However, Mr Otai assured reporters that the Uganda Government will do everything possible to ensure that cattle, which belong to Kenyans, are returned. He added that the question of compensation will be dealt with on a government to government basis.

CAMEROON

President Receives Hissein Habre Envoys

AB190610 Yaounde Domestic Service in French
1200 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] Two special envoys from President Hissein Habre were received this morning by President Paul Biya at the Palace of Unity. They were justice minister Oudalbaye Naham and Ali Saliou, special adviser to President Hissein Habre. After the audience Mr Naham talked to our reporter, Zacharie Iman.

[Begin recording] [Naham] We brought a message from President Hissein Habre to his brother, President Paul Biya. The message falls within the framework of periodic consultations that are normally held between the two heads of state. I can tell you right now that the message is related to current events in our subregion, and particularly in Chad and our sister country, Cameroon.

[Iman] Mr Minister, concerning the moves toward peace, a number of parties involved in the Chadian conflict have shown a certain desire for about 10 days, with regard in particular to the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Chad. Apart from the fact that these moves, or this desire for peace represents a diplomatic success for Chad, what additional satisfaction do the Ndjamena authorities feel in this period?

[Naham] I can tell right now that you are referring to President al-Qadhdhafi's statement. We, Chadians are Al-Qadhdhafi's neighbors and we know one another well. As long as this statement does not materialize, we will consider it a riddle, as our minister of information said.

[Iman] But Mr Minister, even though the authorities in Ndjamena are reported to have rejected all proposals that come from opposing sides, there is still no sign that you have made any suggestions (?on this issue).

[Naham] But we have undertaken, as you said just now, many diplomatic steps, both within our subregion — I am referring here to Brazzaville, as well as outside Africa — and here I am referring to Paris. These steps are intended to yield concrete and positive results, because Chadians are tired of war. Like all otherpeoples of the world, they need to live peacefully in their own country. If it were not for outside interference, Chad would already have peace. [end recording]

CHAD

150 Chadian Political Prisoners Released

LD191319 Paris International Service in French
1245 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt]One hundred and fifty Chadian political prisoners were released this morning in Ndjamena. The move had been officially announced earlier, but there are no details on the identity of those released. Their release comes only a few weeks before the second anniversary of the 7 June coming to power of President Hissein Habre.

ZAIRE

Mobutu Candidacy Approved; Election Date Changed

AB200805 Kinshasa Domestic Service in French
1130 GMT 19 May 84

[Excerpt] The congressmen now meeting at Nsele have done wonders. They unanimously voted for Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko as presidential candidate; on this point there was no problem. Delegates from all regions, and representatives of all categories of social and professional bodies in the country, [words indistinct], expressed their support to the candidate of unity, which the congress had to ratify.

But the congress kept the surprise for the end; the date for the presidential elections was moved forward. Polls will be organized at the end of July. The congressmen felt November is too far away. Thus, the congress yielded under the great pressure put on it by all the delegates and the social and professional bodies.

GHANA

Gabonese Delegation Brings Message for Rawlings

AB211350 Accra Domestic Service in English
1300 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A Gabonese delegation arrived in Accra today to deliver a special message from President Omar Bongo to the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings. The vice prime minister, Emile Kassa-Mapsi, who is leading the three-member delegation, told newsmen at the Kotoka International Airport that he believes the contents of the message dealt with existing cooperation between Ghana and Gabon, as well as the problems facing the OAU. He appealed to member states of the organization to take OAU summits seriously and participate fully. Mr Kassa-Mapsi noted that, despite the ideological differences within the United Nations, it meets regularly to discuss world issues. He mentioned the dispute over Western Sahara as one issue which should be given serious attention by member states. Mr Kassa-Mapsi said any lasting solution depends on the full implementation of the OAU resolution accepted by both Morocco and the Polisario Front. The resolution called for a cease-fire and the referendum to decide the future of the territory.

The secretary for foreign affairs, Dr Obed Asamoah, met the Gabonese team on arrival.

Joint Commission With SFRY Meets in Accra

AB212120 Accra Domestic Service in English
2000 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A 3-day meeting of the Ghana-Yugoslavia Joint Permanent Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation, began today at the State House in Accra. The meeting is to identify the drawbacks and causes of such impediments with a view to correcting them in order to chart a course that will ensure maximum advantages to both countries. [sentence as heard]

Opening the meeting, the secretary for finance and economic planning, Dr Kwesi Botchway, said in view of the resurgence of problems of currency instability and protectionism, which were prevalent between the period of the two world wars and the inhospitality of the world's environment, it is important that relations between Third World countries and fraternal socialist countries be consolidated to the mutual benefit of all. He said Ghana is anxious to expand her cooperation with Yugoslavia and hoped that the session would conclude agreements that would further promote this.

In a speech, the leader of the Ghanaian delegation, Mr Kwame Dwemo-Kessie, who is secretary for local governments and cooperatives, recalled the joint efforts made 26 years ago to promote bilateral trade agreements between the two countries. He said: Since 1973 Ghana and Yugoslavia have had an annual average trade turnover of over $20 million. Ghana, he said, is determined to increase this turnover in the future by fully making available the investment opportunities in Ghana for investors from Yugoslavia. On the achievements so far derived from cooperation with Yugoslavia, Mr Dwemo-Kessie mentioned, among others, the tomato-processing plant at Pwalugu, the mango-processing plant at Wenchi, and the Nsawam cannery. He said the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] Government has identified agriculture as one important area which can salvage the country's economy. He therefore urged both sides to use this as an effective tool in their discussions.

On his part, the leader of the Yugoslav delegation, Mr Dimitrije Tasic, said it is important that what has been achieved so far between the two economies be maintained and improved to a higher international level. He said cooperation between the two countries was on the upward trend until 1979 when it began a downward trend. He hoped the meeting would bring about a new turn and improvement in the relations between both countries.

Joint Commission With Ivory Coast Meets

AB212116 Accra Domestic Service in English 2000 GMT
21 May 84

[Text] The sixth ministerial session of the Ghana-Ivory Coast Permanent Joint Commission opened in Accra today. The 3-day meeting will review relations between the two countries on agriculture, transport, trade, education, and sports.

In an address, the Secretary for Foreign Affairs Dr Obed Asamoah observed that as members of ECOWAS and of the Third World facing similar economic problems, there is the need for Ghana and the Ivory Coast to coordinate their activities to maximize the benefits accruable from their shared resources. He said there is the need for countries in such circumstances to draw the necessary lessons from their collective experiences and South-South cooperation.

Dr Asamoah recalled the recent visit by the PNDC [Provisional National Defense Council] Chairman, Flight Lieutenant Rawlings, to the Ivory Coast and subsequent visits at the ministerial level between the two countries, and said they have contributed to a renewed hope in a joint action for the mutual benefit of their people. Dr Asamoah asked the delegates to take stock of their performances and reassess the objective steps to enable them to map out new areas of cooperation. He noted that the political will exists to make the Ghana-Ivory Coast cooperation and enviable expression of good-neighborliness and hoped that delegates would work out the modalities to bring it to fruition.

The Ivorian foreign minister, Mr Simeon Ake, who led his country's delegation, noted that the meeting is taking place at a time when both countries are facing economic crises. There is the need therefore for the meeting to work out new ideas of promoting the existing relations and new ways of cooperation for the benefit of the two countries. Mr Ake said the Ivory Coast is concerned about ensuring peace, and will therefore not interfere in the internal affairs of any country.

Mr Ake later delivered a special message from President Houphouet-Boigny to the chairman of the PNDC, Flight Lieutenant Jerry John Rawlings, at the Castle Osu. Speaking to newsmen later, Mr Ake assured Ghanaians that his government is taking appropriate measures to forestall the repetition of Ghanaian dissidents crossing over to destabilize the ongoing revolution. He said his government is in no way involved in the action of the dissidents. Mr Ake said there are about 300,000 Ghanaians in the Ivory Coast, and it is not possible to keep an eye on every one of them. He pledged Ivory Coast's determination to strengthen relations with Ghana.

GUINEA

President Receives Message From Zaire's Mobutu

AB212225 Conakry Domestic Service in French
1945 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] At 1200 today, Monday, 21 May, the president, Colonel Lansana Conte, received His Excellency Beltchika Kalebya, the Zairean ambassador to Guinea. In his address, His Excellency Kalebya delivered to the Guinean head of state, Col Lansana Conte, chairman of the Military Committee for National Redress [CMRN], and Guinean head state, a message of solidarity and support from President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. After recalling the friendly bonds of friendship and cooperation that have always existed between Zaire and Guinea — bonds that have existed since the maneuvers of destabilization and balkanization of the young Congo state at a time when it was just emerging from colonial rule, the Zairean diplomat asserted the existence of a blood pact between Zaire and Guinea — a pact that nothing can destroy because, it reponds to the desire for unity and action of our people. Mr Kalebya then expressed the hope to see the friendship and cooperation agreements between our two countries strengthened [passage indistinct].

In reply, the president, Col Lansana Conte, thanked the government and people of Zaire, especially Field Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, for this mark of sympathy which testified, above everything else, to the readiness and desire for a truthful friendship and cooperation. In conclusion, the president said: We need little diplomacy with the people and government of Zaire. We will place first African virtues of solidarity and mutual assistance, because the peoples of Zaire and Guinea have no other choice apart from that of unity of action to achieve our common objectives to make Africa a united and prosperous continent.

The meeting took place in the presence of Lieutenant Abdoulrahmane Diallo, a member of the CMRN, ambassador, and the head of state protocol; and of (Afifap Seria Denis), the director of the press bureau of the Presidency of the Republic.

IVORY COAST

President Receives Siad Barre's Envoy

AB212215 Abidjan Domestic Service in French
1930 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The president granted an hour-long audience to an envoy from Somali President Siad Barre this evening. Their discussions centered on the recent series of attacks on the Somali Republic by Ethiopia. President Siad Barre is requesting the Ivorian head of state to contribute positively to the settlement of this problem facing the Horn of Africa, the Somali envoy, Abdi Salam Sheikh Houssein, the Somali minister of ports and maritime transportation, declared. Let us listen to Abdi Salam Sheikh who spoke to the press.

[Begin recording in English fading into French translation] We are very pleased to have had the opportunity of meeting one of the greatest leaders of Africa, President Felix Houphouet-Boigny, to whom we delivered a message from our president, President Mohammed Siad Barre. The message concerns the situation prevailing in the Horn of Africa — a situation in which we are the object of attacks and bombardments from Ethiopian troops. President Siad Barre has requested his brother and friend, President Houphouet-Boigny, to contribute positively to the settlement of this problem facing the Horn of Africa. We are very satisfied with the fraternal and cordial atmosphere that prevailed during our audience with President Felix Houphouet-Boigny. [end recording]

Defense Minister Lingani Pays Visit to DPRK

For Pyongyang reportage on the visit of Jean-Baptiste Boukary Lingani. member of the National Revolutionary Council, chief of the High Command of the Armed Forces, and minister of national defense, to the DPRK, including his talks with DPRK Vice President Pak Song-chol and O Kuk-yol, chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army, see the North Korea section of the 22 May Asia and Pacific *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

LIBERIA

Decree Issued Returning Some Confiscated Properties

AB172040 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 17 May 84

[Text] The People's Redemption Council [PRC] has issued a decree providing for the return to their owners of certain properties confiscated by government following the 12 April, 1980 coup. According to Decree No 86, former Decrees No 7, 11, 17, 18 and 19, promulgated by the PRC earlier, are hereby repealed subject to the exception set forth in Section 2.

According to an Executive Mansion press release, Decree No 86 says all properties confiscated by the Liberian Government following the 12 April 1980 revolution are hereby returned to their original and rightful owners except for the following:

1. The properties of the late William Tolbert and Bennie Warner, president of the True Whig Party and vice president, respectively, of the defunct regime;

2. All properties of the defunct True Whig Party and those of any political party or organization which existed before the revolution will not be returned.

According to the decree, the Liberian Government still retains ownership of all business entities whose [word indistinct] were guaranteed by it. Funds contracted out by government for management operational purposes and all funds which were managed and being run by the now dissolved Bureau of Reacquisition, are still under the strict control of the Government of Liberia. Decree No 86 says any law to the contrary notwithstanding and it takes immediate effect upon the signature of the PRC chairman and head of state, Commander in Chief Samuel Kanyon Doe. [sentence as heard]

Gabonese Envoy Brings 'Special Message' for Doe

AB182202 Monrovia Domestic Service in English
1900 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The third deputy premier of Gabon, Emile Mapsi, has arrived in Monrovia with a special message for Commander in Chief Dr Samuel Kanyon Doe. The message from the Gabonese President, Omar Bongo, is in connection with the [word indistinct] OAU summit in Ethiopia, and bilateral relations between Liberia and Gabon.

This was disclosed by the third deputy premier, Emile Mapsi, during a press conference at the James Sprigg-Payne Airfield this afternoon. The Gabonese third deputy premier said similar visits have been paid to Upper Volta, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, and Sierra Leone.

Third Deputy Premier Mapsi was accompanied to Liberia by the legal adviser to the Gabonese president, Paul Okumba and Lee Makanga, attache to the Gabonese cabinet. The delegation from Gabon was met upon arrival today by the acting foreign minister, Christopher Minikon, and the assistant foreign minister for African and Asian affairs, William Bull. The delegation is expected to have an audience with the Liberian leader tomorrow.

MALI

Minister Takes Traore Message to Gulf States

AB212232 Bamako Domestic Service in French
2015 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] General Amadou Baba Diara, minister of state in charge of equipment, will leave Bamako this evening for several Arab capitals. In Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE, General Amadou Baba Diara will convey messages from the president of the republic, General Moussa Traore, to the kings and sovereigns of those countries. This mission will last about 10 days.

NIGERIA

Trial of Two Civilian Ex-Governors Begins

AB211830 Lagos International Service in English
1630 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Two former civilian governors today appeared before the Lagos Zone Exchange Control Antisabotage Tribunal. They were Chief Samuel Mbakwe, Imo State; and Aper Aku, Benue State. No plea was taken and the chairman, Miss Justice Oladikpo Williams, adjourned proceedings until 28 May to enable the accused persons contact their counsels. Miss Justice Williams had earlier stated that the tribunal had the same powers as the high courts of the state in the exercise of its ordinary jurisdiction. She emphasized that the tribunal should be regarded as a superior court of record, and that it would demand from all those appearing before it proper (?decorum) as was required in a high court.

Miss Justice Williams pointed out that the tribunal was ready to hear all cases that had been prepared by the investigating authorities and that it would not entertain any unnecessary adjournments once a case was ready for trial. She said that the intention was to complete the (?examination) of all the cases listed before the tribunal as early as possible.

Nigerian Minister Advocates African High Command

AB191053 Lagos NAN in English 1015 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] Lagos, May 18 (NAN) — The Defence Industries Corporation (DIC) is to produce shells, mortar, and anti-tanks at the completion of the current expansion of the industry, scheduled for the end of this year, the minister of defence, Maj-Gen Domkat Bali, said today in Lagos.

Briefing newsmen on the activities of the ministry, Maj-Gen Bali said "it is quite a shame that up till now Nigeria had no industry for the production of explosives".

He said that the new range of arms envisaged for production at the DIC would be in addition to the present products of the industry, which include rifles and the 1.7 mm bullets.

On the proposed conversion of the Nigeria Defence Academy (NDA) into a university Maj-Gen Bali said that the programme was still on and that the first set of students for the institution would be admitted in September if the current expansion of facilities at the institution met with standard requirements.

The minister said that the NDA, the Naval College, and the Air Force Training School would be part of the proposed university.

The minister said that emphasis on the production of training facilities locally, would cut down on foreign exchange costs and minimise the maintenance cost of equipment.

He stated that though financial allocation to the defence ministry in the current budget was "hardly adequate for its needs," the ministry would have to make do with what it had because it was competing with other sectors of development in the allocation of resources.

The minister said that it was desirable to set up an African High Command, pointing out that the main obstacles against an African defence pact were economic and political.

He noted that some African countries were virtually dependent on foreign powers economically. On the phasing out of illiterate soldiers from the Army by 1987, the minister said that it was envisaged that by that time those recruited into the Army without basic education would have been taught to read and write or they would be retired from the Army.

TOGO

Togo's Eyadema To Leave for Romania 22 May

AB211740 Dakar PANA in French 1710 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Lome, 21 May (ATOP/PANA) — According to official sources the Togolese head of state, General Gnassingbe Eyadema, will leave Lome on Tuesday morning for a 4-day official visit to Romania. Gen Eyadema, who is visiting Romania for the first time since he came into power in 1967, is going at the invitation of the Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu.

UPPER VOLTA

Decree Removes Officers From Armed Forces

AB210817 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 20 May 84

[Decree issued by Thomas Sankara, chairman of the National Council of the Revolution, on 19 May 1984 in Ouagadougou]

[Text] The chairman of the National Council of the Revolution and head of state decrees:

Article 1: The following officers have been removed from the National Armed Forces: Captain Ouedraogo Adama of the Headquarters and Support Regiment, and Captain Kambou Sie of the National Gendarmerie.
Article 2: These officers are entitled to their retirement pensions.
Article 3: The minister of National Defense and Veterans' Affairs is charged with the implementation of this decree, which goes into effect on 19 May 1984, and will be published in the republic's official paper.

[Signed] in Ouagadougou on 19 May 1984 — Captain Thomas Sankara

Upper Volta's Sankara To Visit Ivory Coast

AB211500 Paris AFP in French 1339 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Ouagadougou, 21 May (AFP) — Upper Voltan head of state Captain Thomas Sankara will pay an "official and working" visit to Ivory Coast on 28 May at the invitation of his Ivorian counterpart Felix Houphouet-Boigny, it was learned from a government source in Ouagadougou on Monday.

During his stay, Capt Sankara will have discussions with Mr Houphouet-Boigny and visit, among other places, the port of Abidjan, where Upper Volta has many interests, and the University of Abidjan, the same source specified. The Upper Voltan president will also take advantage of his visit to meet with the Upper Voltan community, which is the largest foreign community in Ivory Coast.

Apart from Ghana, Ivory Coast is the only other neighboring country of Upper Volta that President Sankara has not yet visited since assuming power on 4 August 1983, it was recalled. However, Presidents Sankara and Houphouet-Boigny met in Niamey in October 1983 when the heads of state of the West African Economic Community met.

According to observers, Capt Sankara's visit could help improve the relations between the two countries which deteriorated following the coming into power of the National Council of the Revolution in Upper Volta.

Still recently, people in Ouagadougou made no secret of the "annoyance" felt because of the "not very friendly" attitude of Ivory Coast, where some of the known opponents of the "revolutionary" Upper Voltan regime are now living.

ANGOLA

FAPLA Repulses 21 May UNITA Attack on Huambo

MB220558 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese
0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] killed an unknown number of bandits when a terrorist group attempted to attack (Kapango) ward in Huambo town at dawn yesterday. This was reported by the ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY, ANGOP.

The prompt response by the FAPLA forces, who are resolved to completely liquidate the pockets of UNITA terrorists, as well as the support of organized residents of Huambo in general and (Kapango) ward in particular, frustrated the designs of the puppets. According to ANGOP, however, some casualties were suffered during the attack, including the death of a combatant and the wounding of eight other members of the glorious FAPLA.

Embassy Praises French for Not Receiving Botha

MB211420 Luanda ANGOP in French 1256 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Paris, 21 May (ANGOP) — The Embassy of the People's Republic of Angola to France has highly commended the French Government for the position it took on the forthcoming visit to France by the prime minister of the racist Republic of South Africa.

In a statement made last Wednesday by Christian Nucci, the French minister of cooperation and development, the French Government has made it clear that the South Africa prime minister would not be officially received on French territory, thus demonstrating to Africa and the world that France is faithful to its principles and commitment in the struggle against the South African regime.

The Angolan Embassy in Paris expressed satisfaction with the French stand because it is different from that of other Western countries which, while condemning apartheid and the illegal occupation of Namibia, highly publicize and welcome the representative of humanity's retrograde regime.

Nujoma Blames RSA for Failure of Lusaka Talks

MB181315 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY, ANGOP, says the leader of SWAPO, Sam Nujoma, has blamed South Africa for the failure to reach agreement at last week's Lusaka conference on the future of South-West Africa. It quotes him as saying that SWAPO Will now be stepping up its armed struggle in South-West Africa in order to force South Africa, as he put it, to agree to an independent settlement for the territory within the terms of the UN Security Council Resolution 435. ANGOP says Nujoma denied that he had negotiated in Lusaka with the Multiparty Conference of South-West Africa. He said that he would be prepared to hold further negotiations with South Africa.

UNITA Claims 411 Troops, Including 45 Cubans, Killed

PA211417 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1321 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Lisbon, 21 May (DPA) — The National Union for the Total Independence of Angola rebel movement, UNITA, which is fighting the pro-Soviet government of Luanda, declared in Lusaka today that it killed 411 soldiers, including 45 Cubans, while repelling an offensive launched by the Angolan Government troops against guerrilla-controlled regions in the country on 7 April.

In a communique released in the capital of the former Portuguese metropolis, UNITA added that the Luanda forces managed to penetrate only 21 km into territory controlled by the movement led by Jonas Savimbi.

The communique says that the guerrillas killed 366 government troops and 45 Cubans, adding that they also downed a Soviet-made MIG-21 and three helicopters.

According to the communique, a total of 18,500 men, including 3,500 Cubans, supported by armored vehicles, artillery, and aircraft, are participating in the offensive, launched by the Angolan Government with the support of Cuban forces called to Angola by Luanda.

Jonas Savimbi's movement said in Lisbon that it will soon respond to this offensive "with an action that will have repercussions both inside and outside the country."

UNITA, a movement that has the support, more or less covert, of neighboring South Africa, reiterated that the Cubans must leave Angola to permit "the national reconciliation (of Angola) and independence of Namibia," a territory south of Angola that is still under South African Administration, despite the repeated appeals by the United Nations for its independence.

LESOTHO

Somalia Vice President Brings Message to Jonathan

MB211556 Maseru Domestic Service in English
1130 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] An eight-man mission from Somalia headed by the first vice president, Lieutenant General Mohamed Ali Somatra, was in Lesotho for 1 day as guests of the Lesotho Government. The mission had brought a special message to the prime minister, the Right Honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, from President Siad Barre relating to the conflict situation in the Horn of Africa.

Other members of the mission were the minister of mining and water resources, Mr Ahmed Mohamud Farah, Ambassador Y. Ibrahim, and five officials. The mission, which arrived in Lesotho yesterday, left for Botswana this morning.

MADAGASCAR

Iranian Delegation Visits Toamasina Harbor

MB210709 Antananarivo Domestic Service in French 1030 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The seven members of an Iranian commercial delegation in our country visited the harbor of Toamasina yesterday. They were accompanied by Mr (Radelulis), the deputy regional council chairman, and Mr (Rakotovo), the general director of Toamasina Harbor. Talks with regional council officials centered on means for ensuring the export of Malagasy products from Toamasina Harbor directly to the Iranian Bandar Bash Harbor. The Iranian delegation had already negotiated with Malagasy officials on the export of a number of products such as cloves, coffee, vanilla, and other agricultural products that might interest Iran.

MALAWI

Agreement Signed With FRG on Financial Aid

MB181847 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The Governments of Malawi and the FRG today signed an agreement on financial cooperation amounting to about 25.8 million kwacha. The agreement was signed in Lilongwe by the minister of finance, Mr Edward Bwanali, and the West German Ambassador Dr (Theodora von Rosen). Under the agreement, a grant of approximately 17.3 million kwacha would be used for the wood industry's project at (Impia) in Mzimba District.

Another grant of approximately 6.4 million kwacha will be used for the purchase of railroad cars by the Malawi Railways, while a grant of about 2.1 million kwacha will be used for the construction of the Nsanama-to-Nselema road in Machinga District.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Mr Bwanali thanked the Government of the FRG for the continued assistance to Malawi's development program which, he said, has been possible as a result of the bonds of friendship between the two countries. In reply, Dr (Theodora von Rosen) expressed satisfaction at the excellent cooperation between Malawi and her government.

MOZAMBIQUE

Machel Goes to Frelimo Meeting in Nampula

MB191150 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Frelimo Party Political Bureau will meet in Nampula to discuss, in the words of President Samora Machel, the problems of Nampula. The Mozambique head of state made this announcement yesterday to over 15,000 people who had gathered at Nampula Airport to welcome him. After leaving the airport, President Machel walked a distance of 300 meters, greeting people and viewing with appreciation different dances performed by residents of Nampula City.

Accompanying the leader of the Mozambique revolution were members of the Political Bureau Joaquim Chissano, Emilio Guebuza, Jorge Rebelo, and Mariano Matsinhe. Political Bureau members Marcelino dos Santos, Alberto Chipande, Sebastiao Mabote, and Mario Machungo have also arrived in Nampula, while other party officials are expected to arrive.

It is worth noting that in talking with President Samora Machel, residents of Nampula City asked for weapons to fight the armed bandits.

Discusses 'Armed Bandits'

MB201130 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 20 May 84

[Excerpt] The Frelimo Party Political Bureau has been meeting in Nampula City since yesterday morning under the chairmanship of President Samora Machel. The angenda for the meeting covers an examination of the present situation in the struggle against the armed bandits, according to a reporter for *NOTICIAS* citing a source in the Office of the President of the Frelimo Party. The same source added that the meeting is part of the implementation of the decisions of the party Central Committee and the 12th session of the People's Assembly held in April.

On arrival in Nampula, President Samora Machel had said that the Political Bureau session was going to examine, in particular, the problems of Nampula.

Transportation Official Blames Attack on MNR

MB201128 Mbabane THE SWAZI NEWS in English 19 May 84 pp 1, 20

[Text] The Mozambique National Resistance movement (MNR) has been blamed for the gun ambush by saboteurs on a Swaziland Railways goods train near Maputo. An official of the Mozambique Department of Railways and Transport said yesterday: "It seems quite obvious that this attack was one of the many acts of sabotage committed by the terrorists." He stated that the ambush, which took place at night, was typical of MNR operations. The train, carrying sugar and molasses from Swaziland, was attacked a few kilometres inside the Mozambique border on Wednesday evening.

However, other possibilities cannot be excluded until an official report is made.

The driver and his guard were injured by flying shrapnel as manchinegun bullets struck next to them. They were later rushed to a hospiital inside Maputo where they are receiving treatment.

The official said most of the trucks of the train were riddled with bullets but that no serious damage was caused to the train. The train, it was reported, has since been towed to the Maputo railway terminus and the goods offloaded.

But the Mozambican Ambassador, Mr Daniel Magaia, said yesterday that no one had claimed responsibility for the train attack yet. "We have not received any reports of who is behind this. According to the driver, the incident took place when it was dark so he was unable to see the people who fired at the train. He said he heard bullets and they ducked.

"Later, when the firing stopped, he walked together with his guard to a nearby road where they hitched a lift to hospital.

"Since then our security forces have been combing the area where it happened for possible suspects,"

He said: "There was no damage on the rail. This is why they have been able to move the train to the terminus. There will, therefore, be no interruption to the railway traffic."

Two 'Bandits' Surrender in Sofala Province

MB220829 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0400 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Two armed bandits surrendered recently with their weapons to the FPLM in the Buzi district of Sofala Province. They have surrendered following increased FPLM mopping-up operations, taking advantage of the amnesty the government grants to the bandits who surrender with their respective weapons.

USSR To Provide New Banking Credit Line

MB211842 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The USSR consul general in Beira has announced that his country will grant a new banking credit line to Mozambique. Speaking to the media in the capital of Sofala, the USSR consul general said his country will continue to give support to the liberation of the peoples who are oppressed. The meeting focused on the latest events in southern Africa.

Meanwhile, reports from Nampula say that tests conducted by Soviet experts in that province, indicated it is possible to harvest 4 tons of corn per hectare. The tests began in 1981, and a number of corn seeds and various fertilizers were used. The experts said there are good conditions for corn production in Nampula Province.

NAMIBIA

ANC Asks Kaunda To Mediate With Swaziland

MB210900 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 0830 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The ANC has asked President Kaunda of Zambia to act as mediator in an effort to restore relations between itself and the Swaziland Government. According to a report in the *ZAMBIAN DAILY MAIL*, the ANC is dissatisfied with the treatment it has received from the Swaziland Government. A spokesman for the ANC says his movement is at present negotiating with the Swaziland Government on a possible meeting.

MPC Visit to U.S. Reported From Windhoek

MB210823 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] A nine-member delegation of the Multiparty Conference [MPC] in South-West Africa has arrived in Washington from Britain for possible talks with representatives of the American Government. The South-West African Broadcasting Corporation reports from Windhoek that arrangements for talks with senior American Government officials were still in progress by late last night. A spokesman for the delegation said prospects were good that the group might have meetings with the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, and his deputy for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker, among other people.

The rest of the MPC delegation have remained in London for talks with British officials. They form a group which attended a conference on the future of South-West Africa in Lusaka earlier this month.

Meet Crocker

MB220742 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] A nine-member delegation of the Multiparty Conference in South-West Africa has held talks in Washington with the American assistant secretary of state for African affairs, Dr Chester Crocker. No details of the meeting have been released, but a State Department spokesman told our representative in Washington this morning that the department wanted to talk to all the parties involved in the South-West African independence question, so that it could be kept up to date on progress made. The delegation is expected to have talks with the American secretary of state, Mr George Shultz, today.

SOUTH AFRICA

Botha Confirms Talks Held With Angola

MB220738 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has confirmed that he and the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, together with the administrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie van Niekerk, held talks in Lusaka, Zambia yesterday on the future of the Joint Monitoring Commission, once disengagement has been completed in southern Angola. He says that both parties made definite proposals which were now being considered by the respective governments. More meetings of this kind are envisaged.

The South African delegation also met President Kenneth Kaunda and briefed him on the talks. Mr Botha said that it was his impression that President Kaunda was prepared to play a role in this respect too. The Angolan delegation was led by the country's interior minister, Mr Alexandre Rodrigues. Later Mr Botha told a news conference at Lusaka Airport that the disengagement of forces had reached an advanced stage, and could be completed in a matter of days rather than weeks.

Prisoner Exchange With Angola Delayed

MB211750 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1736 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Ngiva, May 21, SAPA — A planned exchange involving 16 war prisoners between South Africa and Angola was aborted today when an aircraft of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] ferrying the only Angolan-held captive failed to turn up at the rendezvous in southern Angola.

The ICRC plane was delayed by undisclosed problems and the prisoners swap had been rescheduled for tomorrow, said spokesmen for the South African-Angolan Joint Monitoring Commission [JMC].

Shortly after 1 pm today, waiting newsmen saw the arrival of 15 Angolan prisoners of war aboard a South African military aircraft at a remote airstrip near Ngiva in the Angolan bush.

All the men had been captured in South African-led military raids from SWA/Namibia into Angola, some in 1978, and were brought from Mariental, in southern SWA/Namibia, to be handed over to the Angolan contingent of the JMC.

In exchange, South African officials were waiting to recieve a war prisoner from SWA/Namibia, Rifleman Petrus Kandjendje, who had been taken captive by Angola's FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] troops during South Africa's "Operation Askari" in Angola earlier this year. ICRC officials in Angolan accompanying RFN Kandjendje were understood to have declined to use a military aircraft, preferring instead to fly in a civilian aircraft.

The group of 15 Angolan FAPLA soldiers were to have been the first batch of prisoners to be released by South Africa in terms of the JMC agreement. A second group of prisoners comprising 15 Angolans and one Cuban were scheduled to be handed over to Angola later this week.

Ngiva is about 35 km from the SWA/Namibian border and is the headquarters in the penultimate phase of operations by the JMC, set up in February this year to oversee the withdrawal of South African military forces from Angola.

In terms of the JMC agreement, the Angolan Government will re-establish its sovereignty over southern Angola, but will bar SWAPO insurgents and Cuban troops stationed in Angola from entering areas vacated by the South African forces.

Transportation Problem Cited

MB212004 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1900 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Our Windhoek representative reports that the planned exchange of prisoners between South Africa and Angola, which was to have taken place at Ongiva today, has been postponed because of transport problems on the Angolan side. The commander of the South African contingent of the Joint Monitoring Commission, Colonel Piet Hall, says the exchange will probably take place tomorrow afternoon. It is not known what problems the Angolans have to contend with, but the commander of the Angolan contingent, Major Javier, has left Ongiva in an attempt to solve them. The 15 Angolan prisoners who were taken from Mariental to Ongiva today will spend the night at Oshakati. The exchange is now scheduled to take place just after lunch time tomorrow, if the member of 202d Battalion in Kavango, Rifleman Petrus Kandjendje, is handed over by Angola.

Aviation Official Denies Negotiations With UK

MB220802 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] South Africa is not negotiating with Britain over the purchase of surveillance aircraft. That is the word from the commissioner of civil aviation, J. Germishuys. Commenting on reports yesterday that South Africa had applied to British Aerospace to buy aircraft and other equipment, Germishuys said that there were no indications that such negotiations were taking place. He says reports to that effect are highly speculative.

Business Delegation Returns From Mozambique

MB181253 Johannesburg International Service in English 0630 GMT 18 May 84

[Text] The chief executive of the South African Foreign Trade Organization, SAFTO, Mr (Wim Holters), says a 17-member delegation of South African businessmen had achieved what it had set out to do during a visit to Mozambique this week. Speaking in Johannesburg on his return from Maputo, Mr (Holters) said the delegation had discussed various matters with the Mozambican authorities, including fishing, mining, tourism, agriculture, and transport. He said the South African delegation had also studied more than 20 development projects in Mozambique which were directed at bringing about economic recovery by the Mozambicans. South African businessmen would visit Mozambique again in the near future.

One Guilty of High Treason in Pietermaritzburg Trial

MB211414 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1300 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Sentence has been passed in the Pietermaritzburg trial of three men charged with treason. Sithabiso Edgar Mahlobo has been found guilty of terrorism but acquitted of the charge of high treason, and the third accused, (Duma Gqubule), has been found guilty of assisting Mahlobo and another man, knowing they were members of the ANC. The court is to hear evidence in mitigation of sentence this afternoon.

Colored Parties Discuss Proposal for Merger

MB220746 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 22 May 84

[Text] Our elections staff reports that two of the biggest Colored political parties, the People's Congress Party and the Freedom Party, have held preliminary talks with the view to amalgamating. Both the leader of the People's Congress Party, Mr

Peter Marais, and the leader of the Freedom Party, Mr Arthur Booysen, have confirmed that the talks were held in Johannesburg last week. The talks were amiable, and the proposal of the People's Congress Party that the two parties join is to be discussed on Saturday at a meeting of the executive of the Freedom Party. Our elections staff reports that an amalgamation of the two parties will result in the election campaign for the August election being fought between the new party on one hand, and the Reverend Alan Hendrickse's Labor Party on the other.

Black Boycott Threatened if Conservatives Win Vote

MB201244 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 19 May 84 p 4

[By Barry Streek, political staff]

[Text] Cape Town — The chief minister of Lebowa, Dr Cedric Phatudi, has threatened to launch a black consumer boycott on northern Transvaal towns if the Conservative Party wins the Potgietersrus provincial by-election on June 27.

Dr Phatudi said in an interview that the withdrawal of black spending power could cripple a number of neighbouring northern Transvaal towns.

If Lebowa's white neighbours voted for the Conservative Party it "will force us to consider whether we should do something about it." Dr Phatudi disclosed that he had spoken to leading people, including town councillors in Potgietersrus, and appealed to them not to be destructive.

He believed the withdrawal of spending power by black people in Lebowa could cripple towns like Pietersburg, Grobblerstal, Tzaneen, Phalabora, Warmbaths, Naboomspruit, and Potgieters-rus, the last three of which are located in the Potgietersrus constituency.

Dr Phatudi said he was not surprised that the Conservative Party could win the by-election. "Lebowa's progress, socially and economically, has made tremendous impact on the white voter in the northern Transvaal and they have been frightened by our advancement — and then somebody tells them to take care of yourself and close your ranks, otherwise you will be overwhelmed by the advancing Lebowa.

"They have been warned by their political leaders that if they allow their ranks to be liberal and not conservative they will find themselves having to share with blacks in a common society — and therefore they must take care."

A CP vote in Potgietersrus would be a "retrograde step, Dr Phatudi said and it would reflect a return to the laager of conservatism.

His government was, however, determined to move forward, not to the cost of white people, but to the advantage of all South Africans. If Lebowa's white neighbours rejected this hand of friendship "we have answers to the problems. One of our answers is buying power. We can use our buying power to cripple those who are not cooperating with us. That is a systematic way, a responsible way, in which we can go about. We can cripple all the towns that have physical contact with us. We can cripple them with the use of our buying power."

"If I say don't support that particular bank as it is against us, they will take their money out. There will be an impact."

He said consumer action could be avoided by opening up opportunities for all.

Soviet Aid, Policy Failures in Africa Viewed

MB211902 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Cliff Saunder Commentary: "The Soviets in Africa"]

[Text] Persistent reports would have us believe that the Soviet Union is planning a major withdrawal from Africa in general, and southern Africa in particular. However, these reports must be treated with considerable circumspection, although there is proof of the observation that recently the Kremlin and its proxies have suffered some setbacks. In January this year, *U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT* claimed that Africa was increasingly turning its back on the Soviet Union. African states were at last realizing that the Soviets could offer little more to them than weapons. At the same time, the magazine observed, opportunities were opening up for the United States and other Western countries to establish trade, investment, and political links, which a short while ago appeared impossible to achieve. Examples of countries where the Soviets have suffered setbacks are Somalia, Guinea, Mozambique, and to some extent, Angola. Last year, former President Sekou Toure of Guinea denied the Soviet Union military facilities, and traveled to Washington in search of food, trade, and aid.

Some observers believe that the Kremlin's influence in southern Africa has been waning for some time now. Dr Peter Wyl of the South African Institute of International Affairs has referred to the spectacular failure of Moscow's Zimbabwe plan, and when the politician the Soviets had backed, namely Mr Joshua Nkomo, failed to make the grade in the elections. He believes that one of the main reasons why the Soviets are losing headway in Africa is their failure to backup their promises with tangible economic assistance. Western observers believe that South Africa's agreements with Mozambique and Angola constitute the most serious setback yet inflicted on the Soviet Union in southern Africa. One of the spinoffs is that SWAPO and the ANC are today fighting with their backs against the wall. These are encouraging signs, but they do not constitute the entire picture, nor do they provide firm enough evidence of the Soviet disengagement from Africa.

In the case of Somalia, the Kremlin purposely relaxed its hold on this country in order to tighten its grip on Ethiopia, which is even more strategically placed. Also there are reports that the Soviets are turning their attention to several islands in the Indian Ocean, and intend moving Cubans on to them. In addition, during the recent Lusaka conference between SWAPO and the Multiparty Conference of South-West Africa, there were strong signs that SWAPO remains under Moscow's control. However, on balance, the omens are good for the West and South Africa. How long they remain that way is a story yet to be told.

Koeberg Nuclear Station Increases Output

MB200536 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
0500 GMT 20 May 84

[Text] The Koeberg Nuclear Power Station near Cape Town reached another milestone yesterday when its output was boosted to 690 megawatts, the highest level of power production by a single generator on the African Continent. An Electricity Supply Commission spokesman, Mr (Andre van Heerden), said the Atomic Energy Corporation gave permission for the Koeberg output to be increased by 20 percent to 70 percent of its 921 megawatt capacity. He said the generator should be ready to run at 100 percent capacity by July. When both generators of the Koeberg station produce at full capacity, their combined output of 1,842 megawatts would amount to 8 percent of the national demand for electric power.

SWAZILAND

Somali Vice President Delivers Message for Queen

MB211807 Mbabane Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] Somalia's first vice president, Lieutenant General Mohammed Ali Samantar, heading a high-level delegation from his country, visited Swaziland at the weekend. In a press statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, it was stated that the Somali vice president delivered a special message to the prime minister for onward transmission to Her Majesty the Queen Regent, Ntombi. The message was addressed by the president of Somalia, His Excellency Mohamed Siad Barre. On arrival, the Somali delegation was met by the minister of foreign affairs, Mr R.V. Dlamini, at Matsapha Airport.

ZAMBIA

RSA Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks With Angola

MB211627 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English
1600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] It has been announced in Lusaka that the South African minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, has arrived in the Zambian capital for talks with Angolan Government officials on regional security. Mr Botha is accompanied by the minister of defense, General Magnus Malan, and the adminstrator general of South-West Africa, Dr Willie Van Niekerk. The Angolan delegation is being led by that country's foreign minister, Mr Alexandre Rodrigues, Kito. [name and title as heard] Mr Botha's visit follows the Lusaka conference on the future of South-West Africa earlier this month between South Africa, the Multiparty Conference of South-West Africa, and SWAPO, at which no firm agreement was reached.

Kaunda Sends Message to Angola's Dos Santos

MB191310 Lusaka Domestic Service in English
1115 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] It is reported from Luanda that Angolan President Jose Eduardo dos Santos has received a message from his excellency the president, Dr Kenneth Kaunda. According to the ANGOLAN NEWS AGENCY, the message was delivered by Zambia's ambassador to that country, Boniface Zulu. The agency has said Mr Dos Santos also discussed issues of common interest with Mr Zulu.

Zambian Envoy Comments on 'False' ANC Reports

MB211907 Mbabane Television Service in English
1815 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The Zambian high commissioner, Mr Cox Sikumba, has condemned the leadership of the ANC for dragging Zambia's name into its bizarre activities in Swaziland. Addressing the minister without portfolio, Mr Mhambi Mnisi, when he presented to him over 5,000 emalangeni as Zambia's contribution to the disaster relief fund, Mr Sikumba said it was not the Zambian press that highlighted false accusations made by the ANC against Swaziland, following the prime minister, Prince Bhekimpi's, condemnation of those countries which took sides with the organization.

Mr Sikumba said some of the false reports were circulated at a conference of the ILO held in Lusaka recently. He said that Zambia had only played host to the conference. He assured Mr Mnisi that Zambia has not changed its foreign policy towards Swaziland. He said that, as the kingdom's ambassador to Zambia, and Zambia's high commissioner to Swaziland, he needed to be briefed by the Swazi Government of ANC activities in Swaziland, so that in turn he could relate these to his government.

In reply, Mr Mnisi expressed the nation's sincere gratitude to Zambia for the donation which, he said, further cemented the already excellent relations between the two countries. Mr Mnisi said he was aware that Zambia was not involved in the campaign to smear the good name of Swaziland. In another reference to the donation, Mr Mnisi said that Swaziland least expected Zambia to make such a gesture, especially as it was hard hit by the drought which has been sweeping southern Africa for years. Mr Mnisi instructed the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send a message of gratitude to the people and Government of Zambia for the generous donation.

The Zambian high commissioner's remarks came amid SAPA reports that President Kenneth Kaunda has been approached by the ANC which, it said, had asked him to help repair ties between the organization and Swaziland. Asked for comment on the matter, Prince Bhekimpi, Mr Mnisi, and the minister for the interior, Mr King Mtetwa, all said that government would not comment on newspaper reports until it had received an official notification of the intention of the ANC in Swaziland. The report by SAPA quoted the *ZAMBIA DAILY MAIL* which, it said, carried the story today.

ZIMBABWE

Czechoslovak Foreign Minister Arrives in Harare

MB190620 Harare Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 19 May 84

[Text] The Czechoslovak foreign minister, Comrade Bohuslav Chnoupek, arrived in Harare yesterday at the start of a 5-day official visit to Zimbabwe. During his stay, he will pay a courtesy call on the president and the prime minister.

Zimbabwe and Czechoslovakia are expected to sign an agreement on cultural and scientific cooperation before the Czechoslovak delegation leaves for Luanda on Wednesday. Comrade Chnoupek has already visited Tanzania as part of his three-nation African tour.

Draft Trade Agreement With Botswana Finalized

MB220750 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 22 May 84

[Text A draft trade agreement between Zimbabwe and Botswana was finalized in Plumtree yesterday after talks between minister from the two countries. Speaking after the meeting, the Botswana minister of commerce and industry, Mr Nwako, said the new draft agreement, which may be signed later this year, is not very different from the old 1956 agreement. The Zimbabwean delegation to the talks was led by Comrade Richard Hove, who is the minister of trade and commerce. Comrade Hove said the talks were difficult and complicated.

Mugabe Warns Matabele People To Change Attitude

MB210943 Harare Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 21 May 84

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, says the people of Matabeleland should change their attitude towards the government. In a wide-ranging interview with the editor of the London *OBSERVER*, Mr Donald Trelford, last [word indistinct], Comrade Mugabe said his government will not surrender its principles in order to accommodate ZAPU leader Dr Joshua Nkomo's will.

Comrade Mugabe said Dr Nkomo has been unwilling to support the government's efforts to eradicate dissidents, and he believes that he can force the government to accept his will.

On allegations of attrocities committed by the Army, the prime minister said although he has received reports from church groups, it still has to be proved whether the allegations are genuine.